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INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE DELIVERED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IN FISCAL YEAR

1976

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT TO
THE CONGRESS
(Pursuant to Title IX, Section 901 (d)
of the Agricultural Act of 1970)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

To the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House:

This transmits the seventh annual report on Information and Technical Assistance Delivered by the Department of Agriculture in Fiscal Year 1976, pursuant to Title IX, Section 901(d), of the Agricultural Act of 1970. This report outlines the key role of the Department in helping local people make rural America a better place to live and work.

I am happy to be able to report that, for the fifth consecutive year, the USDA agencies and State Cooperative Extension Services expanded their information and technical assistance to local communities, districts, and State planning and development groups. Assistance has increased by 73 percent over Fiscal Year 1971, the base year for which comparable figures are available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John A. Knebel".
John A. Knebel
Secretary

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December 1976

PREFACE

Title IX, Section 901, of the Agricultural Act of 1970 requires that the Secretary of Agriculture submit to the Congress four annual reports on RD (see Appendix E). One report deals with USDA assistance provided to rural multi-county planning districts; another with location of Federal facilities; another with government services; and this report [Section 901(d)] deals with RD information and technical assistance. In addition, Title VI, Section 603(b) of the Rural Development Act of 1972, requires that the Secretary submit an annual report on RD goals.

This particular report on information and technical assistance has specific requirements and purposes. The requiring legislation directs that:

The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to the Congress a report not later than September 1* of each fiscal year reflecting the efforts of the Department of Agriculture to provide information and technical assistance to small communities and less populated areas in regard to rural development during the immediately preceding fiscal year...The Secretary shall include in such reports to what extent technical assistance has been provided through land-grant colleges and universities, through the Extension Service, and other programs of the Department of Agriculture.

The report thus describes the nature of RD information and technical assistance, quantifies the assistance provided, and the means by which it is delivered. The organizational arrangements by which and through which RD information and technical assistance are communicated by and between USDA providers and users are also described.

Continuing the pattern of previous reports, the sections on program priorities and summaries of activities, and achievement highlights, exceed the report requirements by providing some assessment, by use of case examples, of results accruing to communities from RD information and technical assistance. Though not specified in the legislation, it is felt this chapter is compatible with congressional intent. No attempt has been made, however, to aggregate total output. The high cost and high risk of such cause-effect assessments have discouraged the effort.

This report is a consolidation and summary of information submitted by USDA agencies and State RD Committees. A copy of the RD committee report for a specific State may be obtained by contacting the committee chairman for that State (see Appendix A). The report was prepared under the overall guidance of the National Rural Development Committee, whose membership is given in Appendix B. Information about statewide RD groups other than USDA groups is included in Appendix C. Appendix D offers a quick index to where the various States and territories are mentioned in the report. Appendix E explains abbreviations frequently used throughout the report.

*The "Fiscal Year Adjustment Act" changed the date for submission to Congress to December 1 for 1976.

INTRODUCTION

Rural development information and technical assistance supplied by USDA helps community citizens to better understand and articulate needs, issues, problems, and solutions, and to learn about resources available. It enlarges and strengthens the knowledge base supporting wiser community decisions and sounder courses of action.

Although information and technical assistance is needed and utilized at all stages of development, the heaviest demand from USDA is at the study, planning, and initiation phases of community action and projects. Once a course of action has been decided, technical assistance and strategy information are in greater demand.

Rural development information and technical assistance quantified and described in this report could be considered as "predecision" assistance. Substantial postdecision assistance is included, but virtually no maintenance assistance. The report excludes the technical and credit assistance provided for agricultural production and marketing, as well as that assistance for the construction, maintenance, and service of housing, community facilities, water control structures, and like projects.

FISCAL YEAR 1976 STATISTICAL SUMMARY

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State Cooperative Extension Services assisted rural America with more than 173,000 different community projects in fiscal year 1976. The staff of the Department, through an unparalleled delivery system reaching from the national to State and local levels, also conducted about 41,000 feasibility studies and convened and conducted more than 200,000 workshops, conferences, and meetings relating to rural development. USDA and Extension expended 5,545 staff years in RD information and technical assistance in FY 1976, an increase of 32 staff years over FY 1975.

These meetings were attended by key community leaders, public officials, and other interested citizens seeking help in finding solutions to their pressing community problems. In addition, publications and audio-visual presentations were used extensively in providing information to assist in resolving the problems of rural America and promoting a more balanced growth in this Nation.

Significant accomplishments were made in the ten concentrated program areas shown in table 1.

Table 1 also shows the quantities of assistance expended in seven categories relating to the ten program areas in FY 1976. Table 2 compares the total quantities of assistance expended in the seven categories for FY 1971 through FY 1976 (comparable figures are not available for FY 1970, the first year that this report was prepared).

Thirty-four of the 77 cells in table 1 show increases in FY 1976, when compared with FY 1975; 43 show decreases.

The relative emphasis of the ten program areas in terms of staff years shown in table 1 shifted a bit in FY 1976, compared with the previous year. Environmental improvement and organization and leadership development continued to rank 1-2 in staff years expended and to account for a large portion of all assistance--47 percent of the 5,545 total staff years.

The other program areas exhibited slight shifts in relative emphasis, as follows: community services and facilities moved from fourth to third, comprehensive planning from third to fourth, housing from fifth to seventh, recreation and tourism from sixth to fifth, business and industrial development from seventh to sixth, manpower development from eighth to ninth, health and welfare from ninth to eighth, and rural cooperatives remained unchanged (tenth in both FY 1975 and FY 1976).

Three of the seven categories of total quantity of assistance shown in table 2 increased in FY 1976; four declined. The energy situation and restricted USDA personnel numbers and travel budgets may hold clues as to why face-to-face type community assistance categories declined, while the impersonal-type technical information reported as publications distributed and audio-visual presentations prepared and used increased.

Table 1--RD Information and Technical Assistance Provided by USDA, FY 1976

Program area	Staff years expended	Projects assisted	Surveys and feasibility studies	Workshops, conferences & meetings ^{1/}	Publications, (newsletters bulletins, fact sheets)		Audio-visual presentations
					Different publications prepared	Total number distributed	
Environmental improvement	1,380	20,776	6,107	24,185	117,667	4,620,471	15,307
Organization and leadership development	1,201	59,075	3,773	63,064	47,186	2,743,970	9,869
Community services and facilities	696	28,622	5,586	23,579	45,477	1,122,144	5,128
Comprehensive planning	666	25,716	16,403	43,783	30,032	1,279,245	3,748
Recreation and tourism	354	10,190	2,414	10,288	19,331	2,726,642	3,962
Business and industrial development	348	7,239	2,007	8,978	23,698	865,042	7,600
Housing	285	9,235	2,283	8,990	32,230	952,707	4,198
Health and welfare	261	6,612	1,087	14,616	35,421	823,200	8,907
Manpower development	251	4,040	588	3,468	6,487	188,597	1,375
Rural cooperatives	103	2,175	594	3,371	5,350	186,259	1,708
TOTAL	5,545	173,680	40,842	204,322	362,879	15,508,277	61,802

1/If more than one agency assisted with the same meeting, some duplication may be involved.

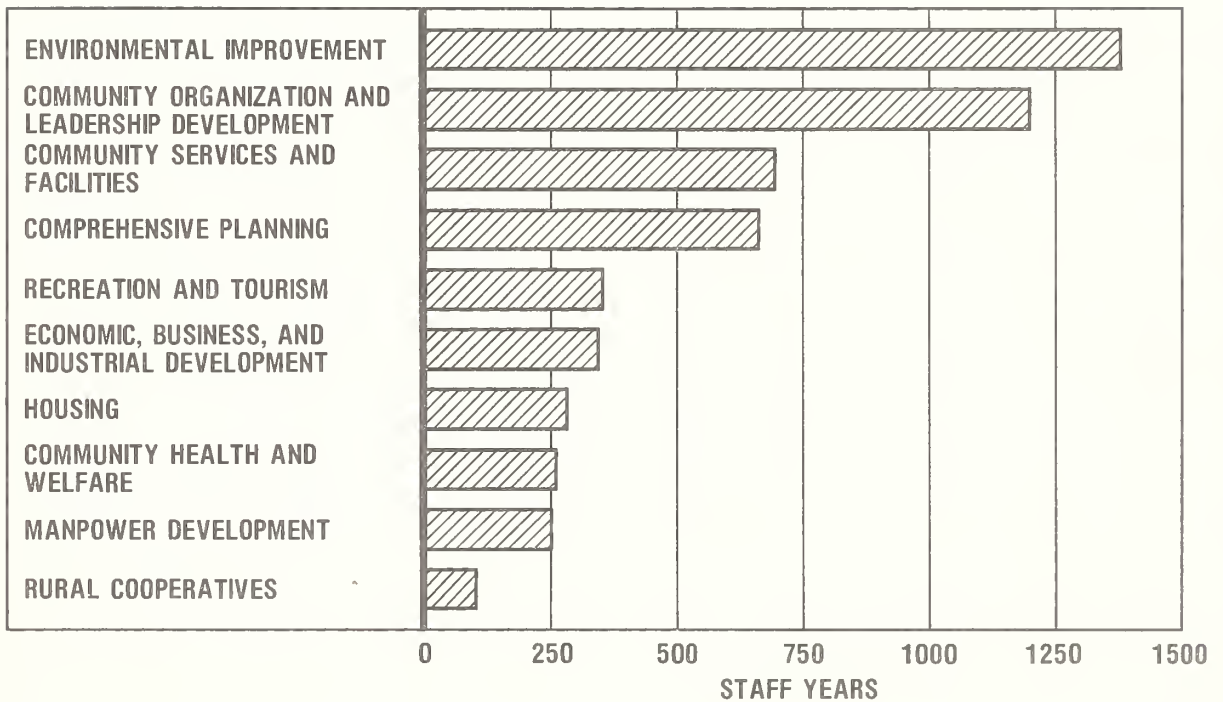
^{1/}If more than one agency assisted with the same meeting, some duplication may be involved.

Table 2--Quantities of RD Information and Technical Assistance Delivered, FY 1971 through FY 1976

Category	Fiscal Year					
	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Staff years expended	3,200	4,301	4,614	5,379	5,513	5,545
Projects assisted	164,809	242,680	171,924	187,636	181,199	173,680
Surveys & feasibility studies	22,265	30,902	33,210	44,001	44,180	40,802
Workshops, conferences, and meetings	163,925	164,911	195,805	226,402	224,680	204,322
Publications (news-letters, bulletins, fact sheets)						
Different publi-cations prepared	144,886	109,929	303,258	319,048	446,767	362,879
Total number distributed	4,374,286	38,252,603	14,535,731	16,174,328	14,809,581	15,508,277
Audio-visual presentations	212,996	70,813	87,978	72,398	58,828	61,802

**STAFF YEARS DEVOTED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY USDA AGENCIES — FY 1976**

PROGRAM AREA



AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN DELIVERY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Assistance described in this report reaches rural communities through an interlocking network of agencies, organizations, and institutions. Working both in concert and unilaterally, these groups provide a wide range of RD assistance, including information and technical aid.

Rural Development Committees

Responding to USDA Secretary's Memorandum 1667, issued November 7, 1969, an interlocking network of Rural Development Committees has been established at the national, State, district (or area), and county levels. In 1976, there were approximately 2,500 such committees functioning for the calculated purpose of helping community leaders push development ahead and make rural America a better place in which to live, work, and enjoy life.

The National Rural Development Committee, in addition to its policy, program, planning, and coordination role, keeps State committees abreast of information on national programs within and outside USDA. This concerted mission is complemented, of course, by unilateral efforts of the 12 member USDA agencies. The membership of the National Committee is listed in Appendix B.

All 50 States plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands have USDA-State RD Committees. The 52 State RD Committees, with an aggregated membership of 1,192, form important links with national and local forces and sources. A total of 492 of the members are from USDA and Extension, 87 represent other Federal agencies, 479 represent State agencies, and 134 members are from citizen groups and organizations of various kinds. They provide leadership for substate committees, coordinate information and programs, locate and channel Federal and State resources, and provide a forum for determining State RD priorities. The composition of State and substate committees is listed in table 3, and changes in committee structure are shown in table 4.

During the year, State Committees expanded membership by an overall total of 141 members. More than 100 of the member increase came from the State agencies category. There are nearly 1,200 different persons serving on the 52 State RD Committees (tables 3 and 4). Based on the averages, a typical State RD Committee has 23 members.

The 211 area or district RD committees focus major attention on problems that cross county jurisdictional lines. They assist citizens, government officials, and planning and development organizations with programs that require multi-county cooperation and coordination. Their linkages with county and State committees and agencies facilitate substate efforts and actions.

The 2,238 county USDA RD Committees, with an estimated membership of nearly 25,000 community leaders and agency professionals, interface directly with local communities and their citizens. Information and technical knowledge channeled to them from district and State committees, the National RD Committee, from universities, and from local, State and Federal agencies, are applied to local problems. In addition, the county committees identify knowledge and technical information gaps that are relayed to appropriate sources. Over and above other program responsibilities, the county USDA members help maintain and sustain the committee organization that strives to match resources with needs. County committee memberships range in size from 4 to 85. In some counties, USDA agency personnel serve within the structure as a resource subcommittee to a larger citizen committee. In others, the USDA committee operates unilaterally and in support of an overall citizen development committee.

The trend to expand the number of county committees and reduce the number of area (multicounty) substate committees, which began in FY 1975, continued in FY 1976. The number of county committees increased by 39 and the number of area committees decreased by 23. Again, based on the averages, a typical State has 43 county committees and 4 area committees.

As indicated in table 4 and by the map on page 94, about 90 percent of the Nation's counties are served by either a county committee, an area committee, or both. The entire area of 29 States, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, is served by substate RD committees.

Statewide RD Groups (Other Than USDA)

Other organizations, important in RD information and technical assistance delivery, are statewide RD committees or councils, other than USDA committees. Such organizations are found in 15 States. In many States, these groups were formed by an appropriate State agency, a USDA agency, or the State-USDA RD Committee. These usually have a broad-based membership and relate to State-USDA Committees through interlocking memberships. Information about statewide non-USDA RD groups is listed in Appendix C.

Table 3--Composition of State and Substate Rural Development Committees, FY 1976

	Number of Members							
	USDA	Other		Citizen groups:			Number of	Number of
	including:	Federal	State	organizations,	Total		area	county
	Extension:	agencies:	agencies:	firms, etc.	membership:		committees:	committees
Alabama 1/	8	1	7	2	18	0	67	
Alaska	9	15	19	9	52	4	0	
Arizona	18	16	66	10	110	0	3	
Arkansas	14	0	2	0	16	8	75	
California	10	1	14	4	29	0	0	
Colorado 1/	10	3	12	9	34	13	0	
Connecticut	8	3	7	1	19	0	0	
Delaware	6	0	4	0	10	0	3	
Florida 1/	9	2	9	2	22	0	67	
Georgia	8	0	18	0	26	0	155	
Hawaii	7	3	3	0	13	0	4	
Idaho	9	2	3	0	14	4	42	
Illinois	17	0	1	1	19	6	81	
Indiana	10	2	7	0	19	18	0	
Iowa 1/	10	0	3	0	13	3	100	
Kansas	9	1	3	0	13	11	105	
Kentucky 1/	8	0	4	1	13	12	102	
Louisiana	13	1	13	2	29	0	60	
Maine	7	0	4	0	11	2	7	
Maryland	9	1	15	9	34	0	1	
Massachusetts	13	2	10	6	31	3	0	
Michigan 1/	9	0	3	0	12	1	20	
Minnesota 1/	8	0	1	0	9	7	36	
Mississippi	8	0	7	1	16	0	82	
Missouri	9	5	9	2	25	20	0	
Montana 1/	8	0	8	0	16	6	49	
Nebraska	13	0	2	0	15	0	93	
Nevada 1/	9	7	26	6	48	3	8	
New Hampshire	9	0	3	0	12	0	0	
New Jersey 1/	7	1	6	0	14	3	9	
New Mexico	13	0	2	0	15	7	31	
New York	7	0	6	0	13	10	0	
North Carolina	6	0	10	3	19	0	100	
North Dakota	10	0	2	0	12	3	49	
Ohio 1/	9	0	2	0	11	5	84	
Oklahoma	9	0	4	0	13	11	77	
Oregon	7	2	6	5	20	10	13	
Pennsylvania 1/	10	0	7	5	22	3	67	
Puerto Rico	8	0	3	0	11	5	73	
Rhode Island	9	1	11	6	27	0	0	
South Carolina 1/	8	0	6	2	16	0	0	
South Dakota	13	0	3	0	16	6	53	
Tennessee	14	1	42	15	72	8	95	
Texas	8	1	6	1	16	0	252	
Utah	5	2	7	0	14	7	0	
Vermont 1/	8	1	6	0	15	5	0	
Virgin Islands	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	
Virginia 1/	8	0	2	0	10	0	0	
Washington	11	5	20	2	38	5	37	
West Virginia	9	0	8	7	24	0	53	
Wisconsin	8	3	19	23	53	2	62	
Wyoming	14	5	18	0	37	0	23	
TOTAL	492	87	479	134	1,192	211	2,238	

1/Also has another RD group--formed by the Governor, General Assembly, or other State official or office--with which USDA cooperates. See Appendix C.

Table 4--Makeup of Rural Development Committees

	No. of States represented		No. of members	
	FY 1976	FY 1975	FY 1976	FY 1975
<u>Members of State committees</u>				
USDA agencies, including Extension	<u>1/</u> 52	<u>1/</u> 52	492	501
Other Federal agencies	26	25	87	69
State agencies	51	50	479	376
Citizen groups, organizations, firms, etc.	25	24	<u>134</u>	<u>105</u>
			TOTAL 1,192	1,051
	No. of States		No. of committees	
	FY 1976	FY 1975	FY 1976	FY 1975
<u>Substate committees</u>				
Area (multicounty)	31	33	211	234
County	37	37	2,238	2,199

1/Including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

USDA Agencies

A substantial part of RD information and technical assistance rendered by the individual USDA or Extension field worker, who may be a member of one or more RD committees, is provided unilaterally by his employing agency. This is particularly true of specific details relating to utilization of agency programs.

Secretary's Memorandum 1667 directed each agency in the Department to give aggressive leadership and assistance to the RD program. The agencies represented on the National Rural Development Committee are listed in Appendix B. Agencies having representatives in States and counties are component parts of RD committees at these levels.

In addition to concerted RD efforts within the RD committee structures, these agencies supply a variety of programs designed to provide expanded farm and nonfarm employment, income opportunities, and better living conditions in non-metropolitan communities. Components of these programs include loans and grants, planning assistance, research, management assistance, engineering and conservation technology, education, feasibility studies, Federal-State coordination, conservation and disaster assistance, food distribution, and maintenance and operation of services and facilities.

Information about these and other programs thus becomes an integral part of the total information and technical assistance package whether it is delivered unilaterally or collectively.

Land-Grant Universities

By virtue of its mission and purpose, the land-grant university is deeply committed to RD and is a productive generator of scientific, practical, and technical RD knowledge.

In addition to performing research and extension work, the land-grant university instructional staffs are involved in providing RD information and technical assistance to communities in the States they serve. Graduate and undergraduate students are involved through the instructional staff in research, study, consultation, and special services to communities.

An increasing amount of programming, through educational television, originates at the land-grant university and is being devoted to rural community issues, problems, and concerns.

The resident instruction, research, and extension arms of the university contribute to the production and flow of RD information and technical assistance chiefly through research, studies and analyses, consultation, media programming, extension education, short courses, conferences, and workshops, preparation of educational and informational materials, and technology applications.

University staff are members of State-USDA RD Committees, area committees, and county committees. An additional linkage with RD by university staffs is through involvement in Title V, the research and education component of the Rural Development Act of 1972. The university in each State administers the

program through a State Rural Development Advisory Council comprised of members from the land-grant and other universities, business, industry, farming, banking, labor, local government, and other State and Federal agencies.

Highlights and examples of land-grant university efforts in RD beyond those of the Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Stations appear in the following section of this report.

Regional Rural Development Centers

The Regional Rural Development Centers are integral parts of the delivery system for RD information and technical assistance throughout the Nation. Through provisions of Title V of the RD Act, these regional centers were established and located at Cornell University (New York State), Iowa State University, Mississippi State University, and Oregon State University. In conjunction and cooperation with the land-grant universities of the region, the centers help facilitate a wide range of RD educational and research activities. Among these activities are the production, coordination, and dissemination of RD information and technical assistance. The centers develop regional programs and support individual State programs in RD.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES OF STATE RD COMMITTEES

For the second consecutive year, State Committees emphasized comprehensive planning and land-use policy more than any other program area, by a 2-1 ratio. Committees in 32 States said the planning and land-use area was their top priority (table 5).

Organization and leadership development was the second highest priority area, but not by as large a margin as for FY 1975. A big change in FY 1976 was that environmental improvement moved from fourth to third ranking in priority, with the weighted index for this program area changing from 17 in FY 1975 to 32 in FY 1976. This increase in priority is probably related to amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, which assign high priority to reducing pollution from "nonpoint" sources* such as farms and forests. This activity is authorized under Section 208 of the Act, which requires States to develop a water quality planning and management program by means of either a State or areawide planning process. In many instances, the State RD Committee has been given or has assumed this planning role, or is involved with the assigned planning body. Increased activities of the State RD Committees under the so-called "Clean Water" Act are evident as one reads the summaries of State Committee activities in this report.

Economic, business, and industrial development also moved up in the priority rankings, from sixth to fifth place, and increased in the weighted index from a numerical value of 6 to a value of 16. Other program areas showed only slight shifts in priority from FY 1975.

*

Point sources are end-of-the-pipe discharges from municipalities, industries, farms, and mines. Nonpoint sources of pollution are caused by rainfall and include stormwater runoff from cities, farms, and forests and erosion at construction sites and mines.

Table 5--Program Priority Rankings, FY 1976

Program area	No. ^{1/} of States assigning priority ranking of:				Weighted index ^{2/}	Priority ranking
	1	2	3	4		
Comprehensive planning & land-use policy	32	8	6	3	100	1
Community organization & leadership development	9	12	9	3	49	2
Environmental improvement	3	12	5	7	32	3
Community services & facilities	4	7	7	11	29	4
Economic, business, & industrial development	2	3	7	2	16	5
Housing	0	1	6	3	7	6
Community health & welfare	0	2	1	6	5	7
Manpower development	0	1	1	3	3	8
Recreation & tourism	0	0	1	2	1	9
Rural cooperatives	0	0	0	0	0	10

^{1/} Columns do not add to 52 because 2 States submitted no priority ranking and some States gave only a first priority.

^{2/} A priority ranking of 1 was assigned a weight of 10; a priority ranking of 2 was assigned 6; a 3, 3; and of 4, 1. Thus, comprehensive planning's priority ranking equals $(32 \times 10) + (8 \times 6) + (6 \times 3) + (3 \times 1) = 389$. The weighted index is based on a ratio of $389 = 100$.

SUMMARIES OF STATE-USDA RD COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Alabama

The Alabama-USDA Rural Development Council emphasizes involvement of local people in planning and implementing projects and programs. It operates on the premise that the key to rural development is more than programs and funds; it is local people--their needs, interests, motivation, capabilities, involvement and leadership.

The Council views its role as supportive and catalytic in nature and serves important functions of communication and liaison with relevant groups and organizations, leaving development and related decisions to the rural farm and non-farm families affected.

Since the Alabama Council's major effort is directed toward the involvement of local people, much of its energy is spent in promoting the organization and effective functioning of county RD committees. Such a citizens' group is operating in each of Alabama's 67 counties and is assisted and supported by USDA field personnel and by professionals from other public and private organizations. County Extension chairmen serve as secretaries to these county committees and their membership is broadly constituted, reflecting both geographic and socio-economic interests. The 67 county RD committees serve as a forum for airing, investigating, and highlighting local needs and problems. They planned and are in the process of implementing 374 projects.

An important product of the State Council concept is improved communications and cooperation among those agencies and organizations which have responsibilities for rural-oriented programs. A climate of working together at the State level is important in promoting like cooperation among professionals on the area and county assignments.

The Council holds regular quarterly meetings and meets on call as necessary. At such meetings, member agencies bring any significant change in their RD program effort or responsibilities to the attention of other members. The effects upon the total effort in the State are discussed and plans are made to support the effort.

The Alabama-USDA RD Council is attempting to demonstrate that people from different areas of endeavor and with strong individual interests can make an important contribution to improving rural life by working cooperatively on programs of mutual concern. If RD programs are to be most successful, this lesson must be learned by both professional workers and citizens at all levels.

Alaska

The Alaska Rural Development Council utilized four widely dispersed regional meetings as major public forums on Alaskan developmental concerns during FY 1976. The meetings were held at Bethel, Juneau, Kodiak, and Palmer.

Through a number of subcommittees, priority attention has been directed toward developing statewide land-use policy and agricultural development policy,

improving rural electrification, strengthening forest management practices, supporting aquaculture production and fishery product marketing, and improving rural housing.

Arizona

Early in FY 1976, the Arizona State Rural Development Committee (SRDC) decided to do the following:

1. Organize resource teams in the area of land-use planning, environment, energy, economic development, transportation, recreation, and housing. Their duties would include investigation of needs, development of information, and technical assistance.
2. Sponsor a statewide conference on intergovernmental relations to improve the understanding and cooperation between Federal, State, regional, and local governments.
3. Continue meeting with rural communities, as requested, to provide direct assistance.
4. Increase the knowledge of SRDC members regarding new statewide programs, trends, and needs, through guest speakers at in-house meetings.

By the end of the fiscal year, all of the resource teams except recreation had organized and prepared work guidelines, goals, and objectives. Preparations for the conference on intergovernmental relations, temporarily delayed, have been reactivated. Presentations on statewide issues included tourism and land-use planning.

The only community to request a meeting this year was Clifton. The meeting proved to be of high quality with excellent results.

Arkansas

The State Committee surveyed the county committees via the district committees to determine program emphasis. Program priority has been given to (1) community facilities and services, including water, sewer, and solid waste; (2) organization and leadership development; (3) comprehensive planning and land-use policy; and (4) housing.

Six meetings were held by the State Committee during FY 1976. Topics discussed included functions of the Office of Planning and Department of Local Services, the Federal Flood Insurance Program, rural industrialization, FY 1976 plans and programs, solid waste management research, status of RC&D in Arkansas, the FmHA Housing Loan Program, the energy-saving home, energy conservation programs, county government reorganization, the National Rural Development Leaders School, and the retention of prime agricultural land.

Three district training conferences were conducted in FY 1976. These conferences are a joint effort between the State and district USDA committees. The confer-

ences provide educational information, guidance, support, and the opportunity for cooperation among USDA and other agencies in assisting local leaders in their development efforts.

Accomplishments at the local level reflect a strengthening of efforts by USDA in some sections of the State. However, many district and county committees need to commit time and resources in order to have a well-balanced program.

California

The California Rural Affairs Council has had as its major goal the coordination of programs that would be of specific use to the rural communities of the State based upon the needs expressed by the local governing officials. In order to do this, the Council was expanded to include such organizations as the California Supervisors Association and the League of California Cities. It became obvious from these activities that much was being done in the State to inform the metropolitan areas of the various programs and changes in programs of the Federal and State governments, but the smaller areas were being bypassed. At the request of the California Supervisors Association, the Council conducted a panel at its annual meeting. From this activity, it was determined that informational-type workshops were needed for the local communities. These have been instigated and two statewide programs conducted. This has also led the Council to be concerned with land-use planning, especially in the area of maintenance of agricultural land for future use. The Council, in conjunction with USDA, is involved in planning a statewide workshop to develop policy for State, county, and community governments to guide them in the area of agricultural resources.

Colorado

The State Rural Development Committee's Task Force on Goals and Objectives was appointed by the chairman in June 1975. The Task Force's assignment was to identify the relationship of the State Committee to the regional committees, the regional COGs, the A-95 review process, and formulation of State RD policy.

During FY 1976, the Subcommittee on Roles and Responsibilities made the following recommendations. The Committee accepted the recommendations and they are now being carried out. State Committee objectives:

1. Serve as a clearing house for RD funding and activities, to provide a review and coordination function in the implementation of RD activities beyond the scope of regional committees and individual agencies.
2. Develop a matrix of technical assistance and information in relation to priorities to serve as a "living matrix" of technical assistance for solving RD problems upon request from regional committees or agencies.
3. Broaden the representation on the regional committees to include other State and Federal agencies and encourage designation of specific agency representations by that agency to regional development committees. The State Committee chairman is to recommend that agency heads designate an official representative to the regional and State levels where practical.

4. Develop a schedule of legislation by the State Committee to update regions, and to provide a bibliography of sources for legislative updates to regional and State Committee members. The Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service will prepare a list of sources of legislative update information.

Connecticut

The Connecticut USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 1976 officially recognized that, because of the highly organized nature of the State, the member agencies on the Committee often work directly with local planning and zoning groups, regional planning agencies, industrial commissions, and State agencies. Because of this, the Committee meets on a regular basis to update members and to determine how work reported may be supplemented and complemented through joint efforts. This complementary factor is always a key component of the work of the Committee.

In keeping with this philosophy, during the past year the Committee reviewed, discussed, and made recommendations on the HUD "701" project plans for all non-metropolitan planning regions in the State. It also received a report from the Commission on Rural and Industrial Preservation in eastern Connecticut, and indicated how the work of the various member agencies could support the work of the Commission, which was provided for by Connecticut legislative action.

Because of an interest in Economic Development Regions, a seminar was held on this subject, including not only Committee members, but also staff from Extension, SCS, the State Department of Commerce, and the Institute of Public Service at the University of Connecticut.

The Committee has always been concerned about the potential for forestry within the State. Thus, a seminar was held concerning new building materials fabricated from wastewood and the potential for production within the State. One commercial builder, using fabricated materials, is now located within the State.

Delaware

The Delaware USDA Resource Development Committee was organized for the basic purpose of helping individuals and communities in the nonmetropolitan areas of the State to improve their overall quality of living. The objectives of the Committee are to:

1. Develop economic opportunities.
2. Improve community organization and leadership.
3. Make effective use of government programs and services.
4. Increase the effectiveness of educational efforts.

It is quite clear to the Committee that community and resource development programs must be conducted in close cooperation with State and local agencies, if these programs are to be effective. One of the main goals of the Committee is to encourage State and local agencies to understand and use the services of

Federal agencies in the overall development of rural Delaware. FAPRS has been instituted in Delaware and is now being used to assist rural communities in making better use of Federal programs. As in previous years, 1976 Committee meetings emphasized development of cooperative programs with State agencies so that rural Delaware would be better served by a combination of Federal, State, and local programs.

Florida

The Florida USDA Committee for Rural Development has a continuing goal of keeping each member organization informed of pertinent programs and activities conducted by other members.

During FY 1976, the Committee initiated a series of conferences on water management. The first such meeting was held in the St. John's River Water Management District in northeast Florida. Since many of the regulatory functions of the water management districts overlap, the Committee attempted to involve all parties in the conference in an effort to clarify areas of responsibility and policy.

The conference was attended by 107 representatives of various organizations concerned with the conservation, control, and use of water. USDA personnel from State and county offices included 17 from SCS, 9 from ASCS, 15 from FmHA, 20 from the Division of Forestry and 21 from Extension. Also attending were representatives from State agencies such as the Division of Planning, Department of Community Affairs, Department of Commerce, and the University of Florida's Departments of Food and Resource Economics and Agricultural Engineering.

By including all regulatory agencies on a panel, the audience gained a better understanding of policies and procedures. Participants thus left the conference in a better position to influence the evolving policies and regulations of the water management district.

Georgia

The Georgia State Rural Development Committee emphasized the development of informed leaders and the coordination and cooperation of agencies working in RD in FY 1976.

An intensive effort was successfully made to identify action-oriented local leaders dedicated to improving the quality of life in rural areas for further training. Sixteen of these leaders attended the National Rural Development Leaders School in Asheville, N.C.

A statewide conference on development of rural areas was initiated by the Committee and cosponsored by the Georgia Regional Executive Directors Association and the Institute of Community and Area Development of the University of Georgia.

The purpose of the conference was to exchange ideas and information about services, resource data, and the knowledge of agencies and organizations involved in RD. The 80 participants represented selected individuals from organizations serving the rural people of Georgia.

The interchange of the conference is resulting in improved coordination of the efforts of the agencies working in RD. Perhaps one of the most significant contributions of the conference was the realization that the agencies, working together, could cut "red tape" and apply their services to rural areas more effectively.

The Georgia Land Use Subcommittee has maintained its organizational structure and served in a coordinating role with USDA agencies in staying abreast of trends and policies relating to land use.

Hawaii

This has been the most effective and productive year for the Hawaii State Rural Development Committee. The cooperation of the Governor and his staff as well as some of his major department chairmen has been rewarding.

The contribution made to important land-use decisions and the location and designation of prime and unique lands certainly has implications for the future of our State, where land is such a precious commodity.

The efforts of past years which have culminated in the approval of the Big Island RC&D area are also significant and open the door to better planning of conservation practices and the potential for technical assistance. The challenge now is to provide plans to the people which will help them realize their goals.

Idaho

During FY 1976, the Idaho Rural Development Committee adopted a land-use plan of work for 1976-78. Its main objectives are to (1) encourage the use of appropriate information available through the Committee in developing a land-use policy and in making land-use decisions; (2) emphasize increasing agricultural and forestry production while maintaining a resource base; (3) develop guidelines for decisionmaking involving the conversion of rangeland to cropland so as to maximize public benefit and minimize adverse impacts; and (4) improve the effectiveness of county RD committees.

Three subcommittees were appointed to work on plan implementation. Efforts were facilitated by the comprehensive Handbook for Local Government published by the Bureau of State Planning and Community Affairs.

The Committee made special efforts to stay current and discuss the response of individual agencies concerning (1) water resource plans for the Snake, Bear, and Panhandle River Basins; (2) criteria for designating land-use priorities; (3) Section 208 of the 1972 amendments to the Water Quality Act, PL 92-500; (4) FAPRS, and (5) the 'Land Sat' system of mapping.

Most Committee members also serve in an advisory capacity to Idaho's Title V Rural Development project. The problem under study centers on the interdependence of small farms and small towns in providing better understanding of the economic and social structure within the sectors of rural communities. The study areas consist primarily of the irrigated portions of Jerome and Gooding counties and include the communities of Wendell and Jerome. A preliminary analysis completed during FY 1976 includes data on gross sales, production

expenses, farm labor use, and household expenses for both small and large farms. Also included are the sources of inputs, sources of labor, and sales between selected industries in the study area. Other rural areas having an interdependence of small farms and small towns should be interested in study results.

During FY 1976, Donald Campbell, FS, was assigned the responsibility within USDA to serve as Federal Regional Council liaison representative to the Committee.

The Committee has been successful in coordinating the efforts of individual agencies and in improving communications among nonmember agencies and organizations.

Illinois

Two State RD subcommittees were organized and conducted two conferences in FY 1976. The first conference, "Conflict in the Rural-Urban Fringe," was held for county board members, county and city planning commissions, zoning boards of appeals, county zoning administrators, residential developers, realtors, USDA agency personnel, agricultural leaders, and interested and concerned citizens in 10 northwestern Illinois counties. The program was well attended and the participants asked that an annual program be developed on the problems of the area. The second conference concerned private sewage disposal systems. A number of rapidly growing communities and rural areas rely on septic tanks for sewage disposal. Septic tank problems often are caused by unsuitable soils and improperly designed systems. The conference was designed to aid contractors, builders, health officials, and individuals in developing better private sewage disposal systems.

Three Illinois areas were designated as "208" planning areas by the Governor. The Committee met with each of the designated planning agencies to help coordinate USDA and planning agency efforts. The Committee also met with the Illinois EPA, which will soon be starting on a statewide Section 208 and Section 303e (PL 92-500) planning program. The purpose of this meeting was to help ensure agricultural and rural involvement in the planning process.

Indiana

Major activities and efforts of the Indiana Rural Development Committee during FY 1976 were concentrated on economic development and land use. On July 31, 1975, a statewide conference, "The Challenge of Rural Development in Indiana," was sponsored by the RD Committee and attended by 600 leaders and concerned citizens. A followup statewide session was held June 8, 1976, with "Industrial Development in Rural Areas" discussed in detail.

During the year, the RD Committee concentrated on furthering ways USDA and State agencies can aid in solving land-use problems. The RD Committee, through the Land-Use Task Force, assembled and published an "Inventory of Assistance and Information Available From USDA Agencies Relating to Land-Use" and "Indiana's Growth and Development Must Consider the Soil." These publications were made available to State, regional, and local people involved in land-use planning.

Iowa

Goals basic to the efforts of the Iowa Rural Development Committee during FY 1976 included (1) increased understanding of each agency's long-range plans related to RD, and (2) strengthened relationships between the State Committee and the area and county RD committees.

In pursuit of the first goal, the Committee sponsored a statewide 1-day meeting for State and middle-management USDA personnel on February 18, 1976. Sixty staff from USDA agencies, the Governor's Office of Planning and Programming, the State Conservation Commission, and the Agricultural Experiment Station participated.

To stimulate increased attention to the broad array of RD opportunities, each county and area committee was provided with a summary of the goals and proposed action of the 88 counties submitting plans of work. These focused on 33 different problem areas. Land use was the most frequently mentioned and continues to be the primary focus of the Committee's attention.

The Committee accepted the responsibility for coordinating activities in Iowa relating to nonpoint pollution under the Water Quality Act (PL 92-500, Section 208). Implementation of that function is underway.

Kansas

The Kansas Committee for Rural Development has established long-range objectives and goals from which it selects high-priority items for the annual plan of work. Each of the 11 regional middle-management and 105 county RD committees also develops annual plans of work concentrating on a small number of locally significant projects.

Rural development committees concentrated on the following goals during FY 1976:

1. Coordination and cooperation with city, county, and regional planning commissions.
2. In-service training of agency personnel.
3. Publishing an interagency monthly newsletter, "Intercom."
4. Providing a framework for local committees to assimilate local data.
5. Developing an award system to recognize achievements of county and regional USDA committees.
6. Educational programs on erosion and sedimentation control.
7. Land-use alternatives.
8. The Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.
9. Housing

10. The Kansas community development program, "Pride."

Accomplishments include:

1. Governor's recognition of four Pacemaker cities in the Pride program and participation by 90 cities in the cash award phase of the program.
2. Public recognition of one county committee in each of the 11 regions.
3. Assistance with the organization of an RC&D project and a regional planning commission.
4. Publishing "Intercom."
5. Development of a format for local groups to use in assembling data.
6. Regional training programs for USDA agency personnel.
7. Support of five housing workshops organized by Extension.
8. Continuing educational programs on erosion and sedimentation, land-use alternatives, and the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

USDA Agency representatives at State, regional, and county levels are continuing to strive to improve their coordination and effectiveness.

Kentucky

The Kentucky Development Committee during FY 1976 continued work to strengthen development groups at the county level. This meant the organization or reorganization of many county groups and continued efforts to recognize work done by active groups. Individual agency members urged their local representatives to work toward coordinated, cooperative efforts to identify priority needs and work toward improving the quality of living in their communities by proper use of available resources.

The State Committee has met in conjunction with a few local groups for interchange of ideas and to see if worthwhile liaison could be established. The Committee has let it be known it is available to furnish material, information, and assistance to local development groups upon request.

The Committee is the designated mechanism for USDA work for "208" environmental water-quality improvement planning in the State.

Louisiana

The activities of the State Rural Development Committee ranged over a wide area of basic concerns. A summary of the major emphases follows:

1. The State Committee has continued to encourage and support the

Northeast Louisiana Water Resource Development and Management Project in 11 north Louisiana parishes. Educational efforts have been undertaken in which the following three goals are employed.

- a. The interdependency of the various water consumers.
- b. Current water resources, uses, and needs.
- c. Future water resources, uses, and needs, including alternatives and priorities of use.

2. Through the Land-Use Planning Subcommittee, the State Committee has encouraged efforts to educate the public on land-use policies and needs. A series of land-use articles has been prepared for distribution through the news media. Thus far, articles with the following titles have been released for publication:

Land Uses and Trends in the United States
Land Uses in Louisiana
Early Land Settlement Policies
Urban Settlement Policies
Competing Land Uses
Emerging Land-Use Legislation
Preserving Agricultural Land

3. The Committee supported a four-region training meeting designed to strengthen interagency cooperation and organizational and leadership development.

4. The Committee sponsored a recognition banquet designed to honor outstanding RD work in parishes throughout Louisiana. Eight parishes were honored--one from each planning district in the State. In addition, one parish was selected as the parish with the highest accomplishment in RD.

Maine

The Maine State-USDA Rural Development Committee does not itself function as an action group in carrying out as a committee specific RD projects and activities. It provides assistance when requested and coordination when required by area and county RD committees. The latter provide the direct service to local groups in carrying out specific RD projects and activities.

Among the activities in which area or county committee members have been involved include: Sec. 208 planning, activation of the fourth RC&D project area, establishment of several USDA agricultural service centers, composting municipal sewage sludge, training of pesticide applicators, expanding work in farm safety, improving rural housing, increasing commercial and home food production, conducting integrated potato pest management, improving small town sewer and water systems, erosion control, expanding rural telephone service, increasing land-use planning, stabilizing coastal land, improving management of woodland and utilization of forest products, improving rural health conditions and increasing the local use of Federal and State assistance.

Maryland

The Maryland Rural Affairs Council continues to view its role as improving RD through coordination, cooperation, and communication among member and nonmember agencies and organizations. The Council was involved in the following activities:

1. Appointed a technical committee to select the criteria to be used in inventorying land of statewide importance for the SCS Land-Use Inventorying and Monitoring Program.
2. Endorsed the Eastern Shore RC&D Area application and continued to communicate with the Southern Maryland RC&D.
3. Endorsed the University of Maryland application for Sea Grant funds to implement a fisheries research program.
4. Supported Maryland's efforts to become a member of the Coastal Plains Regional Commission, along with Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.
5. Toured southern Maryland to review, on site, the RD opportunities in the region, as well as to improve communication between State and regional agencies.

Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Rural Development Committee during FY 1976 really came of age. It expanded its membership four times to include all State agencies that have a stake in the rural towns of the Commonwealth. It jointly sponsored the first major conference on "Survival of Agriculture in an Urbanizing Environment." It followed up with a second major conference in the spring on "Flood Lands Preservation." It provided supporting leadership to efforts to institute a food policy for Massachusetts. This has been adopted by the Governor and is in effect the policy that the State will be following for many years ahead.

The State Committee has provided initiative in developing land-use choices, with special emphasis on the purchase of development rights. Legislation has been prepared and was submitted which will make it possible to go from concept to actual law. Special emphasis during the year by the members of the Committee has been to provide a better environment for members of the General Court and the congressional delegation to understand the role of food, agriculture, and land-use throughout the Commonwealth.

Michigan

To improve the coordination and teamwork between USDA and the State of Michigan, the Committee extended an invitation to the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to name a representative to the Committee. The chief of the Office of Land Use was named and attended his first meeting on June 1. With two State representatives now on the Committee, USDA coordination with State programs affecting RD is improved.

The Committee has taken an active interest in Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. At its February meeting, the chief of Michigan's Water Development Services Division explained the State's involvement with the planning regions. Eight of the 14 regions are now funded to complete areawide waste treatment management plans. The Committee is considering what role it should take to ensure interagency coordination towards effective and timely USDA assistance to the agencies engaged in Section 208 planning.

The Committee has devoted much energy to the development of the Northeast Rural Development Committee and continues to provide counseling and assistance on the activities undertaken by the regional committee, including the potential establishment of a Northwest Rural Development Committee.

Minnesota

The Minnesota-USDA Rural Development Committee continued to emphasize its role in facilitating communications and coordination among State and Federal agencies with programs influencing RD. Specific activities included:

1. Development and implementation of a land-use action plan for USDA agencies.
2. Liaison with the Governor's Rural Development Council.
3. A report from the State planning agency regarding coastal zone management activities. This was followed by a request to the regional USDA committee for assistance in these activities.
4. A report from the newly instituted Minnesota Marine Advisory Service funded under Sea Grant.
5. Sharing of information between USDA agencies regarding activities and program concerns.
6. Appointment and implementation of a task force focusing on activities related to implementation of Section 208 of the Water Quality Management Act.
7. Reconstituting and redefining the regional RD committees.

Mississippi

The Mississippi Rural Development Committee is committed to exercise leadership through a coordinated approach and to provide land-use planning assistance to those who make decisions about land use in developing areas. It is understood that Federal and State agencies can make a contribution to this coordinated effort.

The Committee has and will continue to provide resource data about the natural and physical features of a given area of land, and extend technical, economic, financial, and other information assistance as permissible under legal or administrative authorities.

The Committee, being interested in providing better services and assistance to county RD committees, needed more information relative to RD programs and projects in the counties. County committees were requested to provide the State Committee with a plan of action for each program or project to be undertaken by the county committee during 1976.

A partial summary of county committee projects or activities for FY 1976 included:

Project or Activity	Number of Counties
Community Services and Facilities	10
Marketing and Storage	4
Housing	14
Solid Waste Management	10
Recreation--Facilities and Storage	7
Erosion Control and Drainage Systems	6
Mosquito Control	2
Growing Heavier Calves	3
Energy Conservation	3
Forestry and Timber Management	9
Pesticide Handling	5
Senior Citizens	4
Land-Use Planning	3
Community Beautification	4
Underemployment	3

Missouri

The Missouri State Rural Development Committee is concerned with all phases of RD. Those activities which will provide greater social and economic opportunities are considered for discussion at regular Committee meetings.

Land-use planning was emphasized during FY 1976, and a subcommittee was appointed to recommend and formulate ways of informing Federal and State agency personnel on land-use planning.

The land-use subcommittee prepared a brochure explaining the various types and sources of information available from Federal and State agencies. This brochure was distributed to agency personnel throughout the State.

Land-use information workshops were attended by about 450 professionals. Although no hard and fast answers were given, there was good discussion and a greater awareness of the complexity of the problems resulted.

Montana

The Montana-USDA Committee for Rural Development spent considerable time in examining ways and means to strengthen the area and county USDA committees. Several sessions were devoted to the development of the plan of work that would address the priority items within the State, plus serve as a model for area and county committees to follow in developing their own specific plans addressing local priorities.

The State Committee also provided assistance to a number of county committees in updating their situation statements. Special resource assistance was given to Rosebud County to develop a comprehensive report on the natural and social resources within the community, in addition to identifying high-priority items USDA could address. Finally, the State Committee, in order to help strengthen area and county leadership, has assigned members of the State Committee to different areas and county committees. Members of the State Committee will meet with the members in the areas and counties to assist them, further refine plans of work, and address the specific problems that they encounter.

Nebraska

The Nebraska Committee functions as a coordinating body, bringing together the diverse interests and resources available for RD. Plan of work goals were:

1. Identify and work closely with established organizations and their leaders to:
 - a. Determine which organizations are in need of direct technical assistance from USDA agencies and other Federal and State agencies; what kind of assistance is needed; the source, and when help is needed.
 - b. Describe USDA programs useful to these organizations.
 - c. Help community groups organize to accomplish their objectives.
2. In each county, using knowledge of agricultural resources and programs, identify and present to local planning commissions information useful for the creation of jobs and enhancement of rural living.
3. Provide information and educational efforts which focus upon the economic importance of agricultural lands and the implications of converting these lands to nonagricultural uses. Also:
 - a. Describe rate at which prime agricultural lands are being converted to nonagricultural uses.
 - b. Encourage farming techniques consistent with land capability.
 - c. Encourage uses of lands not suitable for tillage for other useful purposes (i.e., trees, wildlife, grass).
4. Assist rural agribusiness to realize maximum economic return for investment by providing:
 - a. Marketing information on anticipated supply and demand.
 - b. Information on ways to conserve energy and reduce production costs.

c. Information on ways to realize increased monetary return from marginal areas, such as woodlands and wildlife habitat, while at the same time improving the farm living environment.

5. Bring about an increased appreciation of, and economic opportunity for, retention of native grassland pastures on lands not suitable for farming by:

a. Identifying these areas in each county based on soils and climatic data.

b. Evaluating strengths and weaknesses of cost-sharing and incentive programs available for this purpose and soliciting farmer and rancher input into needed changes in programs to make grassland agriculture a viable option.

Nevada

During FY 1976, the Nevada Resource Action Council completed the compilation and publication of a Mapping and Aerial Photography Index for Nevada. Preparation of the Index was requested by numerous Federal, State, local, and private organizations as a source document.

The reorganization of local resource action council boundaries and assignment of local agency membership was completed.

The Council provided needed State-level assistance and counseling to the Washoe County Resource Action Council to expedite action to secure telephone service in the Hualapai Valley. During the latter part of FY 1976, the Council participated in planning and activating a task force to initiate and complete a resource evaluation for White Pine County.

New Hampshire

The basic mission of the New Hampshire Resource Development Executive Committee is communication between the various Federal agencies and selected State agencies.

The thread common to USDA and State agencies is the concern for the well-being of the rural areas and the natural resource base.

Of continuing concern is land use, and a portion of all meetings of the Executive Committee was devoted to a discussion of what each agency was doing and planned to do on this issue.

The sharing of this type of information is beneficial so that overlap and duplication can be reduced and so that there will be an effort to coordinate programs that will result in more effective and efficient service to rural residents. It is the intent of the Committee that such information-sharing will improve coordination, cooperation, and teamwork among member organizations and result in quality service to the rural residents of the State.

New Jersey

The New Jersey State Resource Development Committee does not initiate or advocate the establishment of a large number of special committees and task forces. Its major emphasis is on liaison and improved communications among all participating Federal and State agencies.

The Committee and member agencies continued to make progress in alerting the 7 million New Jersey residents on the need for open space and land-use reform. The two major land-use formulas for preserving agriculture and open space are (1) the purchase of development easements by the State and (2) the transfer of development rights (TDR).

The TDR land-use formula is being tested by Cook College, Rutgers University, through a pilot project. The objective is to demonstrate how a TDR program can be developed and adopted in ordinance form by a municipality. It is accomplished by delineating preservation and transfer areas, communicating with the community, holding meetings with township and planning officials, developing a community profile, and conducting public meetings. Phase II of the project will include a study of the market potential for development rights.

New Mexico

The New Mexico State Committee continues to keep a strong, cooperative, and coordinated program going. The Governor's office, through its State Planning Division, has continued to have membership.

The Committee continues to communicate and coordinate efforts for RD through the cooperation of other nonmember agencies and organizations. This is done by identifying those agencies that have the necessary expertise to solve problems that come up from time to time. Thus far, it has not been difficult to bring about a well-coordinated program for the people in the State.

The Committee recognizes the important role that institutions of higher learning have in rendering services to the rural communities throughout the State. Therefore, coordination has been a must.

Some of the more significant activities in which the Committee has been involved are:

1. Continued guidance and assistance in the establishment of a statewide information system.
2. Guidance and assistance in preparation of a written document to explain the role of USDA committees at all levels regarding land-use planning.
3. Establishment of a USDA Career Subcommittee to provide information to high school students throughout the State.
4. Printing of a "Rural Development Primer" in an effort to get local citizens more interested, and thereby involved, in RD planning and implementation.

5. Appointment of an Agri-Energy Subcommittee to work with the Governor's Energy Resource Board, other organizations, and agencies to bring about a more effective energy program in the State.

6. Continued cooperation with Sandia Laboratories to establish a sludge treatment plant, which will make a multimillion dollar economic impact on the State.

New York

The New York State Community Development Committee has made significant progress in reorganizing its structure and in defining its purpose and function in the past year. A significant accomplishment in this regard was the development and approval of bylaws. These bylaws call for cochairmen, allowing leadership from both the Federal and State agencies. Membership has been expanded to further increase the involvement of State agencies. The regional committees have been made ex officio members of the State Committee, thus increasing their voice in directing Committee attention and commitment to regional and local development efforts.

During the past year, as a result of increased State agency participation, the Committee has begun to be more effectively involved in State government activities in rural areas, allowing the Committee to be more effective in a broader range of rural issues.

In addition, the Committee's involvement in two National Rural Development Leaders Schools and subsequent discussions with the participants has increased member awareness of the need for effective rural leadership. The Committee is expected to increase efforts in this area.

Both the completion of reorganization and the sincere interest of agency members in being involved in jointly seeking approaches to the problems of our rural communities promise to allow the Committee and its member agencies to be more effective in assisting the communities and residents of rural New York State.

North Carolina

Planning and conducting six RD workshops on improving land-use planning in rural areas, rural health care, and housing were the highlights of activities of the State Rural Development Committee and its three task forces in FY 1976. About 850 members of county RD panels and representatives of multicounty planning regions, field offices of State agencies, local government, health-planning agencies, and other local groups participated in these workshops. Local farmers, physicians, planners, private business people, public health and local voluntary groups assisted the Environment, Health, and Housing task forces in conducting the workshops.

The proceedings of the land-use component, which emphasized the State Land Policy Act, citizen participation in planning, and the importance of planning in rural areas have been published and distributed. The housing component focused on site selection, including soil characteristics, water systems and

alternative family sewer systems, home energy conservation measures, and sources of financial assistance. The health component stressed preventive health care and opportunities for local agencies and groups to plan cooperative programs to meet local needs. Seventeen rural health centers have been established in the State.

Efforts were intensified to stimulate economic development and improved rural fire protection during the year and efforts to improve rural water, sewer, solid waste disposal, and recreation facilities and services were continued.

The Granville County Rural Development Panel received a 1976 USDA Superior Service Award for its leadership and assistance to the county's citizens in community and rural development.

North Dakota

The efforts of the State Rural Development Committee have been focused on the following:

1. Education on land-use policy through the development of the second in a series of slide-tape programs for local community use.
2. A middle-management conference for staff of all agencies represented on the State Committee for the purpose of establishing a common understanding of RD in North Dakota, the role of each member agency, securing input of middle-management personnel in terms of future direction for the State Committee, and subsequent actions on the part of each member agency.
3. Improved communications with the local RD committees by sharing minutes of State Committee meetings, holding State Committee meetings in various parts of the State, and inviting the local committee member to participate in State Committee meetings. The State Committee also solicited ideas from local committees on items that need attention by the State Committee, and encouraged local committees to carefully review State RD objectives and goals as a basis for planning and action on the part of the organizations represented on the local committees.
4. Member agencies of the State Committee were involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of a series of eight land-use policy meetings held throughout the State in the spring of 1976. Extension furnished primary leadership, with close coordination of the State Planning Division. The conference teaching team included staff members of both Extension and the State Planning Division. This conference reached over 600 community leaders throughout the State.

Perhaps the most significant development is that all of the organizations represented on the State Committee are cooperating to the fullest extent possible to help assure that educational and technical assistance provided the citizens of North Dakota in matters of land-use policy is directed in a consistent and cooperative manner among these various agencies.

Ohio

The Ohio-USDA Committee emphasized four areas of activity in FY 1976:

(1) land-use planning and development, (2) improving local involvement in RD, (3) environmental improvement, and (4) community services and facilities development.

A substantial effort was made to relate effectively to questions dealing with the possible development of State legislation affecting land use. An active interagency USDA subcommittee provided the focal points for much of the State Committee's involvement in land-use matters.

Another activity of the State Committee was to develop and transmit specific suggestions to local committees as to how they might increase their involvement in RD. These were met with general acceptance, and an increase in county activity was noted.

The major aim of the Committee was to provide the opportunity for interagency communication and coordination, so that it would be readily apparent which community concerns could best be addressed by agencies working together, rather than individually. Bimonthly meetings were held, at which time agency-by-agency input was both desired and forthcoming. Additional detailed followup was assigned to subcommittees.

Area "middle-management" groups (composed of supervisory personnel) and county RD committees remained active. These were mechanisms for developing local communications and identifying locally relevant concerns for combined attention, including the role of appointing area USDA representatives to Section 208 planning groups.

Oklahoma

Three major functions were coordinated by the Oklahoma-USDA Rural Development Committee during FY 1976: (1) sponsoring a district RD leaders school, (2) coordinating displays at major Oklahoma fairs, and (3) investigating the literature concerning land-use planning.

The district RD leaders school was held in Muskogee on April 29, 1976, with 125 local citizens and officials attending. Topics discussed were: (1) leader and citizen responsibility, (2) land-use planning, (3) rural fire protection, (4) solid waste management, (5) law enforcement, and (6) operation and finance of county and local municipal governments.

USDA agencies which had displays at major State fairs joined forces to coordinate the personnel operating the displays. The land-use committee created in FY 1975 conducted a complete review of the literature on land-use planning and now serves as a coordinating committee in the dissemination of new material on land-use planning.

During each RD meeting, members of each agency reviewed current agency activities which improved coordination and understanding of agency programs. On important RD problems, such as reclamation of strip-mined land, planning under

Section 208 of PL 92-500, and grants for sewer construction, the RD Committee invited speakers from other agencies to discuss their programs and to help determine the responsibilities of the State Committee in these areas.

Oregon

This has been a year of reorganization for RD committees in Oregon. To begin with, the State Committee made a survey to determine (1) local committee membership, (2) type of RD organization desired--area or county, and (3) local priorities.

It found that many area RD committees were not active or were active only in one of the counties in the area.

As a result of the survey, the Committee structure changed from 14 area committees to 10 area and 13 county committees. Oregon USDA agency heads are encouraging their field people to attend local RD meetings. In most cases, these meetings are now being held on a quarterly rather than a monthly basis.

The State RD Committee responds to requests from local committees on questions regarding priority subjects for the local committee. Due to the pressure on local government to get comprehensive plans developed and adopted, the State Committee has adopted land-use planning as its first priority and is encouraging local committees to contribute as much as is practical to this effort at the local level.

The State Committee is attempting to take some of the mystery out of the words "rural development" by stressing to local committees that RD is what USDA is doing on a day-by-day basis and that the coordination that comes from periodic local RD meetings serves to make the ongoing projects better, as well as serving to get many worthy projects started.

Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania Rural Development Committee sponsored a workshop entitled "The Preservation of Lands for Agricultural Endeavors" on March 4-5, 1976, in Lebanon, Pa. This workshop was a good example of how Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as local citizens, can meet to discuss issues and develop land-use guidelines. Proceedings of the workshop have been produced. Hopefully, this report will serve as a valuable resource in making land-use decisions.

Land-use will continue to be a major focus of the State and local committees. The Lebanon conference was most timely because of the State's interest in the topic and the production of its own document about land use in Pennsylvania. The Committee recognizes that citizens need to be informed and involved in land-use decisionmaking. RD committees in Pennsylvania have an important role in this process.

Puerto Rico

Through the coordinated efforts of the nine agencies represented on the Puerto Rico State Rural Development Committee, many goals were reached during FY 1976.

Some of the most outstanding ones are the following: The Title V Cerro Gordo Isolated Community Project has been so successful in improving the living conditions of its poverty-stricken inhabitants that it is considered a model project. The project is demonstrating that development techniques can be used in underdeveloped areas where quick but lasting results are needed. The Extension team working in this community received the USDA Superior Service Award as a recognition of the success attained in the project.

The State Committee was instrumental in the acceleration of the process of establishing a sound land-use policy in Puerto Rico. During the year, all the studies needed to gather the necessary background information were finished and a policy statement is being evaluated by citizens in public hearings.

In order to improve the RD process at the grassroots, a comprehensive evaluation of local committees was made. Its findings served as the basis for useful recommendations that, when put into effect, will undoubtedly increase the efficiency of these committees.

The State Committee assisted in the planning of the Metro-Norte project, established under section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, to improve the environmental conditions of seven Puerto Rican municipalities.

A program of visits by the State Committee members to regional committee meetings contributed to strengthen these regional committees, brought about better coordination between the regions and the State Committee, and accelerated the attention given by different agencies to the community problems discussed at regional committee meetings.

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Community Development Committee operates in a way that brings information of a rural statewide nature to the membership. There is no action intended by the Committee under its name. Actions are taken by member organizations and agencies. The Committee is experiencing a worthwhile benefit in getting to know other organizations and individuals who work for them. During FY 1976, the theme of Committee programs and discussions has been land-use planning.

In summary, the Committee fills an important need by serving as a catalyst, resulting in all concerned doing a better job of bringing the services of their agencies to rural Rhode Island.

South Carolina

The State Rural Development Committee of South Carolina continued to meet regularly during FY 1976, as it has in the past. Likewise, the Committee emphasized review of programs and activities that significantly affect RD. The Committee has continued to follow the practice of inviting agency and organization representatives to share information on new programs or changes in existing programs for RD. Committee members also share information concerning changes in their own programs and the significance of these to RD.

The Committee followed through on its plans, started in FY 1975, to jointly sponsor, with the Governor's Office, a State Rural Development Conference. A prime objective of this conference was the need to impress upon local decision-makers the opportunities for RD and the magnitude of resources currently available to support it without additional Federal grants. Attendance was limited to specifically invited individuals.

South Dakota

The South Dakota-USDA Rural Development Committee met quarterly during FY 1976. One joint meeting was held with the statewide Ag Coordinating Committee. This was a productive session, and similar meetings will be held in the future. One meeting was devoted to studying the role of an RD committee. It was agreed that the principal accomplishments of RD in South Dakota occur through the individual agencies, but the Committee does sometimes coordinate and plan these activities. Also, because of the Committee, the various agencies are more aware of plans and achievements of the others.

Members of the Committee were available and appeared before various Senate and House committees during the 1976 legislative session. These sessions related to comprehensive planning and land-use policy, community services, community health, environmental improvement, and economic and industrial development. Cooperation with the State Planning Commission has been excellent and assistance was given in the adoption of a policy for the future of agriculture in South Dakota.

Tennessee

The Tennessee State Rural Development Committee stressed its primary functions of coordination, communication, education, and motivation in support of total development in the rural counties of the State.

The Committee emphasized ten areas during the year:

1. Communication and understanding among agencies of the RD concept.
2. Strengthening of regional and county RD committees.
3. Improvement of teamwork and cooperation between agencies concerned with RD.
4. Sharing of information available on local, State, and national levels essential to RD.
5. Providing maximum support to the Title V project in five counties in Tennessee.
6. Erosion control.
7. Land-use education.
8. Importance of total development in rural areas.

9. Support of county RD committees in completion of agribusiness surveys.

10. Small farm enterprises.

A newsletter concerning RD activities in Tennessee was sent to all State Committee members and to chairmen of all county committees in the State. Four issues of the Resource Development Newsletter were edited and distributed by the secretary of the State Committee. Information about local committees and recognition of their accomplishments have been motivating forces for increased Committee action throughout the State.

The Morgan County RD Committee received national recognition at the USDA Honor Awards Ceremony on May 25, 1976, for its accomplishments resulting from Committee action and citizen involvement in overall development.

Two training meetings and many individual meetings by Extension staff for chairmen of county committees were held to strengthen the concept of total resource development. Examples of work being done in various program thrusts were presented as a demonstration of what can be accomplished by an effectively organized RD committee. Reports received indicate continued progress in the strengthening of leadership and organization of county committees.

The State Committee's continued interest and support of the Title V project in Clay, Overton, Pickett, Hancock, and Claiborne counties has strengthened the involvement of the local county committees in support of the project. The local committees initiated action at the local level to carry out the Title V proposal of the Rural Development Advisory Council.

The State Committee asked the committee in the Upper Cumberland Area to arrange a tour to observe development activities resulting from the teamwork and co-operation of agencies and organizations on local, State, and national levels concerned with total development of rural areas. Fifty people attended the tour and approximately 15 key county leaders met the group at each of the 3 stops.

The State Committee Secretary was a member of the delegation invited to Washington to make a presentation to the National Rural Development Committee on Tennessee's Title V project.

Texas

The State USDA Rural Development Committee encouraged the 252 county committees to work with local groups in initiating worthy projects that lead to group decisions.

The State Committee's goals are to mutually support ongoing programs of the various agencies and encourage county committees to support local citizen groups with technical information needed for RD.

Utah

The State Rural Development Committee continued to strengthen already good working relationships between USDA and various State agencies. Good contact has been established with the Federal Regional Council.

There has been a significant increase in the participation of area committees in assisting the nonmetropolitan planning districts. Valuable help has been provided in land-use planning, especially in the preservation of prime agricultural lands.

Three area committees have developed technical assistance directories which are proving to be useful in conjunction with a statewide community progress program.

Through the efforts of many, including the State Committee, a range improvement bill was passed by the State Legislature. This bill provides no-interest loans to assist ranchers in improving private rangelands. This should be most useful in developing the State's underdeveloped agricultural resource.

The State Committee has set up a new task force to assist with water-quality studies.

Vermont

The Vermont Rural Development Committee plan of action expresses the work of the Committee. Active subcommittees were set up as follows: Agricultural Land Use, Manpower, Rural Health and Safety, Bicentennial, Intergovernmental Relations, Rural Housing and Community Facilities, and Waste Management--Agricultural and Domestic.

Major program areas of the area RD committees were: agricultural mapping in relation to regional and local planning, natural resource technical teams for assisting in solving local and area problems, small business management training, and community use of Federal and State programs.

To accomplish the objectives, the Committee met six times during the year, at which times it shared program information, developed specific objectives for subcommittees, and heard reports from various liaison members, including the Federal Regional Council, Conrail, USDA's RDS, Governor's Commission on Food, Governor's Advisory Committee for Economic Development Planning, RC&D projects personnel, and Experiment Station workers.

Virginia

The USDA agencies in this State recognize rural needs and, through the State Rural Development Committee, brought those needs to the attention of the appropriate agencies--national, State, and local--in FY 1976. Where continued participation or supplementation was desirable, the Committee supplied it.

Virgin Islands

Again this year, the Virgin Islands Rural Development (VIRD) Committee has made significant contributions to general and overall advancement in the areas of

environmental improvement and land use. A great deal of assistance was provided by member and nonmember agencies and organizations in helping to achieve goals for FY 1976. Much cooperation was provided by the sponsoring agencies of the RC&D project. In addition, such nonmember groups and organizations as the Governor's Agricultural Advisory Council have been instrumental in assisting where needed. Much of the success of this year's activities depended on the technical advice and information provided to the VIRDC Committee by Federal agency members. However, the VIRDC Committee was able to function, as it did last year, more as a committee than in previous years to achieve goals and objectives. As a result of these activities, especially in rendering the type of assistance given, community garden producers and other interested individuals are slowly improving their living conditions as far as being able to produce many of the vegetables they consume as families.

The Environmental Protection Law Awards Program was an incentive to those persons who were recognized for their outstanding achievements, especially since there was followup through a program of evaluation.

Washington

The State Rural Development Committee, four regional middle-management RD committees, and 38 county RD committees were in operation during FY 1976. Five counties emphasized land-use planning efforts.

The Committee's interest and support of the Title V project in Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Lincoln, and Whitman counties has strengthened the involvement of local county committees in RD activities.

The "Guidelines for Programming Rural Development in the State of Washington" were revised and updated.

The devotion of time and effort to the free exchange of ideas and information among Committee members has greatly improved interagency communications and has resulted in better and more efficient support for local development efforts.

West Virginia

West Virginia's "Mountaineers for Rural Progress" (MRP) has completed another active and successful year.

The potential for success in any organization is largely dependent upon the quality of its program planning and development process. The organization must be able to interpret the needs of the client groups it serves and efficiently utilize its resources in assisting those identified groups to develop alternative solutions to their local problems.

In July 1975, the MRP State Council asked several of their past chairmen to review the activities of the organization and make recommendations for desired future program directions.

The Review Committee confirmed that the basic approach and direction of MRP programs were the ones necessary to support West Virginia's RD effort. The

Committee recommended several changes in the Agriculture, Environmental Improvement-Rural Beautification, Land-Use, Eco-Environmental, and Environmental Education Committees, and the Solid Waste Task Force, and termination of the Forestry, Water Recreation, Wildlife Resources, and Technical, Vocational, and Adult Education Committees, as they had served their useful functions.

The MRP State Council accepted the recommendations of the Review Committee, and all participating agencies were so notified. A complete review of membership on each committee was initiated and each member agency was given the option to appoint new members if desired.

A 2-day planning session was held for the State Council and its committees. The basic function of the workshop was for committees to develop: (1) an organizational structure, (2) a general statement of the situation and State needs, (3) a series of objectives or goals, and (4) specific action plans to reach objectives within the capability of the Committee and MRP resources.

This workshop also served to restate the MRP role in RD in West Virginia and gave agency and department heads an opportunity to express their support of the Council's programs.

A major overall goal of the State Council during FY 1976 was to develop stronger ties with county committees.

From a county MRP committee survey, it was concluded that successful county committees had (1) good chairmen, (2) projects which could be completed, and (3) excellent selection of people to become involved in moving projects to completion. The survey also reflected the local committees' abilities in getting local government, civic, and community leaders, and local organizational representatives on their committees.

MRP State Council approved a major operational change during the year, the formation of an Interim Working Committee. The State Council meeting schedule was changed from monthly to bimonthly. The Interim Working Committee would meet during those months in which the Council was not meeting. Principally, the Interim Working Committee would consist of designated alternates of member agencies. This meeting procedure will be followed for 1 year and evaluated. If results are unsatisfactory, the Council will revert to the previous system.

Wisconsin

The efforts of the State Rural Development Council concentrated on three major thrusts during 1976: (1) passage of State legislation to statutorily legitimize a State RD Council, (2) plan and conduct a Governor's Conference on nonmetropolitan community development, and (3) stimulate experimentation with an alternative waste-disposal system applicable to smaller communities. The results are as follows:

1. State legislation to legitimize a RD Council was introduced but failed to survive the last hours of the closing legislative session. Interim plans under consideration included a Governor's Executive Order to create the Council. A special effort has linked resources

of the existing quasipublic Rural Development Foundation with the development program thrust of a resurgent RD Council.

2. A 3-day Governor's Conference on nonmetropolitan community development was a high spot of Council efforts. Planning, organizing, and conducting this interchange required extensive collaboration between agencies and organizations. Over 300 officials and leaders from smaller communities participated in this working conference. The broad range of community participation was recognized as a reflection of the concerns, interests, and readiness of smaller communities to plan community betterment action. There is a growing demand for greater knowledge and understanding of available State and Federal resources to support local development efforts.

3. The Rural Development Council, through funds provided by the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, was able to encourage and support innovation in a critical problem area, waste management. This problem became critical because of population pressures on community physical growth, environmental protection concerns, and economic factors. There are insufficient local, State, and Federal funds to upgrade standard waste disposal systems. The smaller communities tend to be the least able to support needed improvements.

Wyoming

Star Valley in western Wyoming is a better community in which to work, live, and play as a result of assistance from the USDA agencies working with the local community organizations. Commitment and cooperation between the interested agencies for the past 10 years is showing results. The area's resources were inventoried. The Southwestern Wyoming RC&D organization is functional. Extension has conducted socioeconomic research and education.

FmHA and Extension, working with SBA, local finance agencies, and State government (primarily the Department of Environmental Quality and the Wyoming Development Corporation) had key roles in overcoming a whey waste disposal problem of a cooperative cheese plant and the Town of Thayne. SCS provided technical assistance.

SCS and ASCS have evidence of the completion of an efficient sprinkler irrigation system and flood protection plan for hillside and valley lands, utilizing gravity irrigation. Energy-saving is effected, since no pumping is required. Better water management has been achieved.

To give an indication of the impact these programs have had on the Star Valley area, since 1971 a total of 67 projects involving 256 producers and serving 16,299 acres have been installed. Going back to 1962, this involves 122 projects serving 29,981 acres. Federal cost-share funds in excess of \$1,250,000 have been involved in these projects, in addition to FmHA loans.

The dairy industry is prospering. Housing is being upgraded. Resources are being conserved. Human services are being improved.

The State Rural Development Committee does not claim the entire credit. The Committee does feel its efforts have contributed to assisting people to understand the resources they control, identify the goals the community wishes to pursue, and carry out plans aimed toward achieving these goals.

Community Organization and Leadership Development

Community organization and leadership development are integral parts of all RD efforts. Community organization efforts create effective structures which can support and implement the decisions local citizens and officials make. Leadership development is aimed at improving people's competence in community decision-making, thus enhancing the viability of the community's governing process. As the current Title IX report from Virginia states, "Voluntary association is an American tradition. People have always voluntarily gathered to work on solutions to problems important to them. Citizens of all ages often have high motivation but often admit to low problem-solving and analytical skills." Community organization and leadership development efforts support volunteers who undertake the projects which result in development of our rural communities. USDA helps volunteers to develop leadership and organizational skills essential to successful voluntary community work.

Community organization and leadership development may, then, be seen as that "overhead" which is essential to assuring that local citizens can get what they want or need for their community, in cooperation with State and Federal government efforts, and to provide for the essential participation of local citizens in the development of their communities. The 1976 Arkansas report indicates that it takes form in working with local people to identify those persons who are seen as leaders by local citizens; planning and creating awareness of needs as perceived by the community residents; establishing and articulating community priorities; and assisting in defining and arraying courses of action to implement needed changes.

Assistance Provided

The number of staff years expended by USDA on community organization and leadership development remained virtually unchanged this year from FY 1975. The number of surveys and feasibility studies increased by 32 percent, and the number of publications distributed was up by 2 percent. The other categories showed declines, ranging from 4.5 percent for publications prepared to 21 percent for audio-visual productions.

Achievement Highlights

A number of States, including West Virginia, Maryland, and Georgia, reported major efforts in supporting the RDS-sponsored National Rural Development Leaders Schools (NRDLS). Two schools were conducted in 1976; more than 200 local rural leaders were trained. This brings the total number of leaders trained in the program to more than 700.

The Arizona State RD Council has organized State-level resource teams to work with local governments in addressing critical needs. Kansas has organized similar teams at the substate level. These teams are composed of Federal,

State, and local governing officials and work closely with local officials to address critical problems.

New Mexico's major effort has been identifying key RD leaders and supplying them with information, training opportunities, and technical assistance in their efforts to serve the needs of local communities.

In Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, the RD council is working with parish youth to conduct a problem identification survey to lend direction to RD efforts. The survey is being conducted to provide local citizens from all walks of life the opportunity to identify problems they consider important in their community and to identify workable solutions to those problems.

USDA has conducted RD leadership workshops in 23 States. These efforts have provided training in group skills, decisionmaking processes, citizen participation in governing activities, conflict management, organizational styles and structures, social change, determining citizen-felt needs, and leadership styles to more than 30,000 rural leaders across the Nation.

In 16 States, USDA has given leadership training to an estimated 10,000 local people who are members of rural community service organizations or employees in agencies of local government. This training has been given at the request of the organizations and agencies and deals with organizing and maintaining effective advisory bodies to local and State level governments, and working with citizen groups to define needs and implement projects to meet community needs. These efforts enhance citizen participation in the governing processes of the rural community, thus leading to a greater level of satisfaction with those processes among community residents.

In 15 States, community development councils, committees, or other such organizations have been created by agencies of USDA working closely with local government officials and local leaders in more than 200 localities. These councils or committees were created to deal with problem areas such as housing, health facilities, transportation, fire protection, water and sewer facilities, police services, electrical energy supply, communications to isolated communities, recreation and tourism facilities for youth and elderly residents, marketing and production cooperatives, and economic development.

In 19 States, specific efforts have been undertaken by USDA to involve youth in community governing processes. Training of both youth and governing officials prepares youths to participate in governing processes and officials to facilitate such participation. In New York, high school students are being paired off with county legislators to enable the students to get a first-hand view of the local governing process. Students work in the offices of legislators, immersing themselves in legislative business.

A long-term (3-year) leader development program has been completed in Michigan with Extension assistance. More than 200 local leaders have participated in the program, studying functions of Federal, State, and local governments in the United States and Europe. Study tours to Washington, D.C., and to England were major parts of the effort. The group has focused on how local governing processes work, how they can work better, and the relationships between local, State, and Federal levels of government.

In New Jersey, USDA provided training for "leadership clubs" sponsored by the Jaycees. The young men involved requested and received training in a series of workshops on leadership styles and behaviors, public speaking, and parliamentary procedure. Future community leaders are being developed in these sessions. These young men are concerned about the communities and about community life. Nearly all those in attendance at the workshops have been moving up in the hierarchy of their clubs and other organizations in their communities.

Local governing processes are structured differently in different parts of the Nation, and newcomers often become frustrated in trying to integrate themselves into local governing processes and community systems. In New Hampshire, training and materials have been provided local governing officials and community organization leaders to improve efforts to integrate new residents into community life.

In the dry Southwest, allocations of water determine how many other resources may be used. In Arizona, USDA personnel have provided organizational assistance to local citizens in forming and operating a water users association to protect their water supply. The association provides a mechanism for legal and political action to protect the water supply upon which agricultural producers and local townspeople are dependent. The challenge they face comes from encroachment by larger communities and competing uses.

USDA personnel in New Hampshire have helped local citizens organize ad hoc groups to deal with problems in providing day care for children of working mothers, health facilities and services, comprehensive planning, land use, and other problems. In a town of 500 residents, more than 300 people are now working on over a dozen different community projects. Rural development is self development, with USDA providing only those kinds of facilitating assistance which people cannot provide for themselves.

In North Dakota, organizational assistance and leadership training resulted in involvement of more than 1,200 youth (ages 14 to 21) and 500 adults in identifying problems and implementing over 240 community betterment projects in 23 communities.

Community development study committees were active in 14 counties of Ohio during the past year. These are permanent organizations created and supported by USDA programs. Members are selected by reputational survey and represent their constituencies in identifying major community problems and posing solutions for those problems. Problem areas addressed included land use and subdivision regulations, public finance, rural water systems, sewage disposal, solid waste management, and economic development.

In Texas, 3,476 leaders were trained in 633 different communities. These people are currently leading local efforts to address problems in economic development, housing, health, public recreation facilities, water and sewer facilities, and solid waste management.

Rhode Island Extension field personnel provided consumer assistance for low-income, handicapped, and elderly persons. Youth agents were instrumental in producing directories of services in two communities. Home agents provided

leadership and training which led to the establishment of a center where reasonably priced dry goods, emergency food, financial aid, and educational programs would be available to low-income residents.

Extension worked cooperatively with the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture and SCS in a food expansion program. The program was designed to provide people an opportunity to grow much of their own food, in an effort to combat increasing costs and dependence on food imports. The Department of Agriculture made 1/4-acre plots available and helped local citizens organize and operate community vegetable gardens.

Research Conducted*

Missouri researchers, in cooperation with local public officials in 14 towns, have made a detailed analysis of their budget systems and the financing of local public services. Efforts are now underway to use the information in helping provide professional management and accounting assistance for small rural communities.

*Under this subheading and under subsequent subheadings in following program area sections of this report, examples of "research conducted" are not necessarily all "pure" or "basic" research, but include studies, inventories, analytical inquiries, and joint research-extension undertakings under Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972.

Comprehensive Planning

During FY 1976, USDA agencies provided educational, technical, and research leadership in many areas of comprehensive planning, including land-use planning, economic development, health, and housing. USDA agency representatives served on local, regional, and statewide planning groups as both voting and nonvoting members. Many communities were assisted in their continuing planning process. Assistance was given in data gathering and analysis, and in total comprehensive planning for social, physical, and economic development.

Educational meetings and programs on planning helped to bring about greater cooperation between citizens, elected local government officials, and planners. USDA agency field personnel continue to support local and regional planning districts and to work closely with planning commissions.

A major program thrust is in the area of land-use policy. Considerable attention was devoted to the development and dissemination of information on local, State, and national land-use policy efforts. USDA agencies have taken the lead in creating forums where citizens and planners can learn and comment on land-use issues and alternatives. To support this effort, the Department performed related research and developed printed and visual materials related to land-use policy and planning issues.

Program efforts have been to (1) aid in the organization and maintenance of planning commissions, (2) assist communities by providing or obtaining technical assistance needed in the planning process, (3) support local elected officials and planning staff in effectively involving citizens in the planning process, (4) assist citizens in understanding the development, adoption, and implementation of the plans, and (5) help those in responsible positions to improve their ability to implement and administer those ordinances and regulations necessary to carry out the plan.

Assistance Provided

In FY 1976, USDA agencies devoted 666 staff years to this program area, a decrease of 5 percent from FY 1975. This assistance was provided through 25,000 projects and 16,000 surveys and feasibility studies. There were about 44,000 workshops and meetings conducted on comprehensive planning and land use. There were 30,000 publications prepared, with more than 1 million pieces distributed; this was the only type of planning assistance which increased in FY 1976.

Achievement Highlights

Efforts in planning by USDA field personnel were assisted by land-use subcommittees of the State RD Committees, and leadership was provided by the USDA Committee on Land Use through its Prime Land Seminar, a slide-tape set on "USDA Service for Land-Use Planning," and a research report, "Land Use: Issues and Research Needs for Policy and Allocation."

SCS initiated a survey to locate and identify prime farmland based on national criteria. This information will assist planners. ASCS supplied aerial photography, crop history, and leadership in activities under Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. FS provided leadership and technical assistance in those matters related to forests, outdoor recreation, and similar resources. REA helped local planners in matters pertaining to telephone and electricity utility planning, while FmHA helped in matters concerning water, sewers, and housing.

In Connecticut, the Bozrah Planning and Zoning Commission requested help from Extension in completely revising its zoning regulations. Extension got as many people and agencies as possible involved in revising the regulations, including the regional planning agency. After a tentative revision, a public hearing was called. The commission chairman presented proposed changes. Most were acceptable. The town attorney then reviewed the regulations for legality. This was followed by another public hearing. A few changes were made and the revision completed. The commission then voted to officially adopt the revised regulations.

Following the establishment of water management districts with broad powers, considerable controversy arose throughout Florida regarding regulations and permitting procedures. Often the controversy stemmed from lack of information and understanding. The State RD Committee saw a tremendous educational opportunity to help the general public understand the policies and procedures and to help the districts develop satisfactory policies and programs. The Committee agreed to sponsor a series of meetings for each district. Personnel from the districts, from the State Department of Environmental Regulation, and from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreed to cooperate and participate. As a result of the meeting, personnel from USDA agencies, State agencies, and other groups now have a better knowledge of water-control programs.

A one-day session designed to facilitate an exchange between people interested in orderly community growth was sponsored by the Illinois State RD Committee. "Conflict in the Rural-Urban Fringe" focused on the problems created by unplanned development. Potential solutions were investigated by participants.

A workshop was held in Pennsylvania on "The Preservation of Lands for Agricultural Use," sponsored by the State RD Committee, with approximately 75 people knowledgeable in the use of agricultural land participating.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands set aside an entire day to meet with the State RD Committee to lay out plans for FY 1977 and invite suggestions from each of the USDA agencies as to how the agencies could contribute to better administration of the provisions of the Hawaiian Homes Act. This productive meeting was followed by a series of meetings in which ES, SCS, and FmHA assisted with specific problems dealing with land use, planning, housing, and training programs.

Early in the year, the California RD Council set up a Land-Use Planning Task Force, consisting of 14 people representing 13 Federal and State agencies. This task force has developed a workshop plan on "California's Future: Resources for Agriculture?"

In Pennsylvania, attitudes were changed among elected officials and community leaders as a result of their participation in an "Adams County Land-Use Seminar" sponsored by Extension. People were helped in comprehending the long-term consequences of mixed land uses and in becoming familiar with the planning concepts and legal instruments which may be employed to guide land use.

In Maryland, SCS, in cooperation with the Maryland Rural Affairs Council, is involved in an inventory of prime and unique farmland and farmland of State and local importance. Similar surveys are underway in all 50 States.

In New Jersey, an SCS soil survey being made in cooperation with the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and the State Soil Conservation Committee is providing useful information for land-use planning. The Soil Conservation Committee and the State Department of Community Affairs are providing funds for conservation districts to use the soil survey information in making interpretative maps. These township maps show limitations of the soil to absorb septic tank effluent, depth to seasonal high water table, slopes, and prime agricultural land. The color-coded maps are presented to municipal officials and planning departments for use in making wise land-use decisions.

The University of Missouri faculty prepared seven new guide sheets related to land-use planning in FY 1976; three more are planned. Also, visual aids material and reproductions of pertinent material from other States were provided to Extension field faculty. A 2-day training session culminated a nearly 2-year effort to develop materials for use with citizen groups and public officials.

By means of both local workshops and new publications, local government officials' understanding of the relationship between coastal land and water planning and the welfare of their communities has been improved in Michigan. Opportunities to obtain professional assistance in carrying out effective planning and use regulation programs have been pointed out. Increased public appreciation of the value of Michigan's coastal natural resources has been developed through educational programs aimed at citizens' organizations in coastal communities. The field force of Michigan Extension has been involved in the regular and continuous dissemination of shoreland planning-related educational materials to their clientele groups and the citizens of coastal communities.

The Massachusetts Extension staff had a major role in support of the Natural Resources Planning Program (NRPP) of SCS, elaborating on and explaining the use of the 26 different resource inventories conducted in a community under the NRPP effort. This program involves some 27 communities throughout the State.

In an effort to strengthen the comprehensive planning process in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, the local RD committee helped the parish planning commission conduct an indepth planning survey. From this inventory and a study of services and facilities will come a set of recommendations for a comprehensive plan. The committee also has helped the mayor of Livingston to garner citizen support for needed improvements in the existing water and sewage treatment facilities.

Barron County, Wisconsin, has been involved in developing a land-use plan, with Extension's assistance, for 4 years. It has included preparation of a county

recreation plan, forest resource plan, snowmobile trail plan, highway interchange plan, and township land-use mapping of the five most populous townships in the county. Ten of 25 townships have accepted county zoning ordinances.

In order to increase acceptance, 30 meetings were held to present proposed revisions of land-use regulations and maps to local citizens. There was extensive radio and newspaper coverage, and face-to-face presentations have reached 800 people.

The county Extension leaders in many of the counties in Tennessee are actively involved in updating Overall Economic Development Plans (OEDP), a place to start in getting local citizens involved in planning.

As a result of citizen interest and the passage of the North Carolina Land-Use Policy Act, efforts at the State level to begin analyses and expand educational programs directed at land-use planning in rural areas were begun. The land-use component of six regional workshops was sponsored by the State RD Committee for county RD panels, representatives of multicounty planning regions, regional representatives of pertinent State agencies, and other local leaders and professional workers. About 750 persons attended the land-use component of the workshops. Proceedings have been published and distributed.

Interest in planning in a Vermont town perked up when an area Extension specialist began assisting the local planning commission. The town had refused to join the regional planning commission, but their own plan lacked citizen input and interest and commission members didn't know what they wanted. The specialist insisted that the commission follow orderly procedures and develop a plan satisfactory to the community. New members replaced inactive ones and selectmen began attending meetings. Two public meetings have been held, a new plan has been adopted, and the town has voted to take part in regional planning. The commission, with the Extension specialist still providing guidance and encouragement, is now turning to zoning considerations.

A problem confronting Wisconsin farmers in recent years has been the rapid urbanization of the rural landscape. Extension has worked to bring citizens and officials together to study community needs and draft new zoning ordinances to resolve competing agricultural and residential demands for lands. Columbia County preserved more than 1,280 acres of farmland by adopting a revised zoning ordinance, making development on agricultural land subject to town and county review. Fourteen of 16 townships in Walworth County adopted a detailed zoning ordinance after many meetings between citizens and officials.

Research Conducted

A major research and extension program in land use is underway in Illinois. Research includes an extensive land-resources inventory in a 10-county project area by landscape architects. An indepth soil analysis in two of the project counties assists in land-use decisions. A study of changes in land values in the project area is continuing. A study of the costs and benefits of four alternative land uses in western Illinois includes (1) agriculture, (2) strip mining, (3) recreation, and (4) residential uses. A soil replacement demonstration project in strip-mine reclamation has been developed jointly by the University of Illinois, Western Illinois University, and a coal company. Land-

resource teams of Extension professionals have been trained as part of a state-wide effort to plan and deliver educational programs.

An ERS survey of more than 300 buyers of lots in recreational subdivisions in south-central Colorado indicated that immigration and progress in construction of housing has been slow. Nearly three-fifths of the owners expected to build houses in the next 5 years, however. About 41 percent of the owners visited their lots at least once in the year of the survey. Average stay was 3 weeks, with an associated expenditure of \$362 per owner.

ERS found that more than half the landowners in Rappahannock County, Virginia, have their legal residence outside the county, but residents own over half of the land. Nonresidents were more likely than residents to be holding the land for recreation or resale. Agricultural activity is declining, with only 5 percent of the owners classified as farmers. Forty-three percent were in professional, technical, or managerial occupations. Nonresidents expressed more interest than residents in maintaining the rural atmosphere of the county. Many residents and nonresidents were unaware of existing county zoning and taxation measures or State tax laws that give preferential treatment to agricultural land.

The continuing concern over encroachment by urban, highway, and other non-agricultural development of highly productive farmland led USDA to sponsor a seminar on the retention of prime lands in July 1975. The seminar was planned and organized by a special task force appointed by the Department's Land-Use Committee. Representatives of ERS, ES, FS, and the Council of State Governments composed the task force. The papers and reviews were published in "Perspectives on Prime Lands" early in 1976. The recommendations dealing with Federal policy, interagency coordination of programs, research, data, and education were published in "Recommendations on Prime Lands." The recommendations give a high priority to the identification of prime lands and development of measures to encourage their retention for food and fiber production.

Community Facilities and Services

The availability of a wide range of community facilities and services is crucial to the development of rural areas, not only in assuring the creation of employment opportunities needed and wanted by rural Americans, but also in enhancing the overall quality of life in such areas.

Title I of the Rural Development Act of 1972 authorizes loans at favorable finance rates to rural communities for a multitude of community projects including local government office buildings, health care facilities, fire protection facilities, water and waste disposal assistance, and recreational facilities. Title I has stimulated rural communities to provide additional services and has increased the demand for information and technical assistance for community decisionmaking and evaluating alternatives in the community.

USDA assists in (1) providing the vehicle, local groups, that can identify the need for various services and facilities, (2) helping determine the need or identifying the problems and the severity of the problems with reference to services and facilities, (3) pinpointing and identifying sources of assistance that can help provide the necessary facilities and services, and (4) working with the local leadership and organizations in developing applications and getting them ready for approval.

USDA staffs have helped local leadership develop alternative sources of funds for their facilities and services. Technical assistance extended to rural communities to provide safe and dependable water supplies is a strong effort throughout the various States. USDA also provided information and technical assistance in FY 1976 to many communities lacking sewer facilities or finding their facilities old or inadequate. Providing facilities for solid waste disposal has been an area of universal concern related to health and pollution abatement. Interest has been stimulated by the recent passage of laws prohibiting burning, open dumps, and otherwise governing the disposal of waste.

Statistical Summary

USDA personnel devoted 696 staff years to providing information and technical assistance about this area during FY 1976, compared with 650 staff years in FY 1975, a 7-percent increase. This was the only assistance category showing an increase. Other categories decreased in a range of 41 percent for surveys and studies to 9 percent for audio-visual presentations.

Achievement Highlights

Recreation facility construction has been assisted by USDA-RD committees. The Nemaha County, Nebraska, committee assisted in the development of a State park

and the construction of an indoor horse arena, tennis courts, and softball fields. Jefferson County has been assisted with the development of a public recreation area.

The Pee Dee Electric Cooperative, Inc., of South Carolina is assisting a number of local water associations by providing bookkeeping services. The cooperative also provided the leadership to form a fire department in its service area.

The population of Sutton County, Texas, has doubled due to a gas boom. Oil and gas company employees moving into the county put a strain on public facilities and services. Extension assisted leaders in planning and carrying out necessary community improvements. The county has finished an industrial park, reinstated a chamber of commerce, started a new radio station, and made plans and applications for new water and sewer systems.

Illinois FmHA assistance in development of sewer systems has made it possible for over 20 communities to obtain State and Federal grants for construction. The State has also held its first consulting engineer workshop. Representatives of engineering firms interested in utility construction in small communities were invited and participated.

The University of Illinois conducted symposia on private sewage disposal. The interagency Council on Rural Water and USDA were cooperators.

The University of Maryland Fire Extension Service provided training for rural firefighters throughout the State.

The Engineering Extension Service of Texas A&M University established a Public Works Resource Center that provides municipal governments with technical assistance on such subjects as building codes, fire protection, water and wastewater, safety and industrial planning, and development.

The city of Goldendale, Washington, has been prohibited from discharging sewage plant effluent at the current rate into a river. The city and its engineering firm requested Extension's assistance in developing a plan to discharge waste on farmland via irrigation. In cooperation with the local SCS office, a soils report was developed on the proposed land sites to be irrigated. The Extension Service developed a report on potential crops for the proposed irrigated area, indicated irrigation requirements by crops and water management practices.

Part of the Title V project in Laurel, Delaware, has involved preparing improved police management guidelines. Extension analysis provided Laurel with a comprehensive examination of its law-enforcement program, and a report on management guidelines has been completed.

After a 3-month trial period, a regular schedule of bus trips for senior citizens has been established in Wayne County, Missouri. A bus is available 3 days a month for residents of three communities. To date, all trips have been to a larger community, primarily for shopping and doctors' appointments. Total membership is 43, and additional senior citizen groups are becoming

interested in the program. Extension community development specialists worked with area groups to get the transportation system underway.

Assistance by FmHA county supervisors in Alaska has helped communities to encourage and assist builders, prospective homeowners, and others in their efforts to build new homes and improve existing homes. Since FmHA is the only source of information in several communities, supervisors constantly discuss not only FmHA programs, but programs of other Federal agencies and private lenders as well.

With Indiana Extension help, the Tippecanoe County Park and Recreation Board has been turning abandoned schools into usable recreation facilities.

Kentucky county Extension staffs reported assisting 410 communities with a total of 1,361 utility-type projects. Park development and/or expansion received top time priority, with water systems and libraries running a close second. Eighty-seven park projects were pursued, while 84 water systems, 40 libraries, and several disposal systems also received attention.

In many rural areas of Maryland, particularly on the Eastern Shore, communities and farms often are poorly drained. This can result in health problems, such as disease-carrying mosquitoes, as well as problems with farming, such as poor crop production. Extension, along with SCS, assisted in the formation of public drainage associations to alleviate these problems in Caroline County.

Through a program developed by the Nebraska Extension forestry fire control specialist, fire departments have learned how liquid fertilizer applied by aircraft can help fight fire. The program is becoming more readily accepted as a result of meetings held with fire chiefs.

Residents of Caliente, Nevada, were interested in developing a new water supply from a spring 15 miles from town. After an engineering and economic evaluation completed by Extension, it was decided that adequate water could be developed in town from wells, at a cost of about \$20,000, versus about \$1 million for the alternative spring development.

The proper development, management, and use of water resources has been a major focus and concern of Extension in New Jersey. A newsletter was distributed to environmental commissioners, health and environmental departments, planning boards, and other key leaders in each of New Jersey's 567 municipalities.

Extension staff have been involved with citizens in establishing library facilities and making library services available in the rural areas of Virginia. Extension reports success in helping citizens gain access to mobile library units and in establishing branch libraries.

Research Conducted

ERS researchers find that special districts are an important form of government in rural areas. Nearly half of the 78,000 units of government in the

1972 Census of Governments were special districts. Collectively, these districts provide a wide range of public services, but most are authorized to deliver a single service, such as fire protection, water, drainage, or soil conservation. The major source of revenue is service charges, with many districts having no paid employees, depending solely on volunteers.

North Dakota is completing a case study on the development and impact of a rural water system. An analysis was made of organizational procedures and identification of characteristics of households served by the system. Changes in water cost, home construction, appliance purchases, business volume, property and land values, water consumption, and livestock numbers were analyzed. Results of the study were presented to State legislators during a hearing on potential State funding of rural water systems. A report of the study also was used by a special State legislative committee on agriculture and presented to the North Dakota Society of Farm Managers and Appraisers. Local groups and engineering firms also have used the results to organize rural systems.

In Minnesota, transportation research considers both "people" and "commodity" transportation in a substate planning district. Research on people transportation explores the availability of public transportation and alternative vehicles, modes, and route systems. Commodity transportation focuses on the movement of bulk commodities (grain, fertilizer) in and out of the area. Data were compiled on alternative transportation modes, shipment costs, and rate structure. Following the completion of seven research reports, the Transportation Committee of the Regional Planning Commission has discussed the research findings.

Many rural areas throughout the Great Plains get fire protection from the nearest town fire department. With increasing costs and greater demand for such services in town, surrounding areas are increasingly left unprotected. Concerned rural residents and county and community officials are seeking information on how best to provide rural areas with adequate fire protection. ERS studied a 10-county area in Northwestern Oklahoma, to suggest alternative fire protection systems effective under Great Plains conditions. Data from 29 of the 42 fire departments in the study area were used to develop a model to predict the number of fires for a service area. Information from fire department chiefs, fire equipment dealers, and communication equipment dealers was used to estimate capital and operating costs of fire departments. Local decisionmakers have three simple forms to analyze alternative means of providing fire protection.

Timber bridges are used widely on rural roads. They are durable and attractive, and can be erected with a minimum of skilled labor and equipment. A newly developed glued-laminated deck for such bridges is strong and long-lasting. To assist construction crews using this new system and to avoid common pitfalls, FS has published a guide giving helpful information and erection procedures.

Health and Welfare

The health care services and facilities of many rural communities, although vastly improved from a few years ago, are still inadequate in many cases. Because of small populations and limited economic bases, doctors, dentists, and pharmacists find it less feasible to practice in a rural community than in a metropolitan area. But when proper health facilities are available, health care specialists are more willing to practice in rural communities.

Health fairs are an example of USDA health education programs. These fairs have provided information on a variety of topics, including drugs, alcoholism, venereal disease, immunization, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, arthritis, smoking, birth defects, and child abuse. They also have given participants a chance to ask questions.

Different agencies have helped citizen groups to recruit doctors, institute health checkups, and raise funds. USDA personnel have served in a liaison role between funding agencies and medical centers. Many programs have been carried out in cooperation with State and local organizations.

Assistance Provided

The number of staff years expended in this program area by USDA agencies increased by 7 percent in FY 1976 from the previous year, following a 6.5 percent rise from FY 1974 to FY 1975. There also were increases in projects assisted, surveys and studies conducted, meetings held, and audio-visual presentations prepared and used. There was less activity year-to-year in the publications area, with fewer pieces prepared and distributed.

Achievement Highlights

During FY 1976, Missouri has been actively engaged in developing aging-related programs. One of these programs is the Older Adult Transportation Service (OATS). Senior citizens across Texas capitalized on the Bicentennial to sell handmade products at senior citizen fairs and bazaars.

In Florida, Extension personnel helped with rescue relief and cleanup operations in the aftermath of a hurricane and floods. Alabama Extension and the University of Alabama Medical Center are involved in a joint statewide Health Education Learning Program (HELP).

It has been recognized that high blood pressure (hypertension) is a serious disease in rural areas. Intensive screening efforts have been undertaken in many States. About 1,800 residents have been screened in three Tennessee counties. Health fairs provide opportunities to screen people for high blood pressure, along with testing for tuberculosis, diabetes, vision, and hearing.

Extension agents in Maryland were involved in Fire Prevention Week. Lead Poison Detection Week is a program sponsored by Connecticut Extension. North Carolina Extension, in cooperation with the Duke University Medical Center and the Northwest Area Development Association, promoted a program to explore and test new methods of screening for breast cancer.

A rigorous climate, which places added stress on relationships, contributes to an above-average divorce rate in Alaska. During FY 1976, Extension, in cooperation with psychologists and the Alaska State Department of Mental Health, launched an educational effort to aid couples in understanding themselves and their reaction to the stresses.

The Extension staff in Wise County, Virginia, conducted a series of four classes for expectant mothers in their first pregnancy. The main goals in teaching this class were to impress upon young mothers the need for proper care of themselves during pregnancy, such as good nutrition and proper rest, and, most of all, to help alleviate fears of labor and delivery.

Through its continuing education programs, Wisconsin Extension provides a variety of opportunities for rural clergy to improve professionally in counseling skills, organizational administration, and community leadership. In Ohio, the primary emphasis at district health conferences was on "Child Abuse and Neglect." Extension gave substantial leadership.

Residents in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, concerned about the lack of doctors, contacted Extension personnel for help. As a part of the Pennsylvania "Title V" program, assistance is being given in developing a primary care center. The future is brighter for Crook County Memorial Hospital in Wyoming because of the support and interest aroused by a newspaper column titled "Health Care Hattie," prepared by the Extension office. A temporary doctor was obtained with the help of the county Extension agent in Roberta County, Georgia, after the one doctor in the two-county area closed his office.

In Brown County, North Carolina, the director of ASCS directed a drive to raise funds for a health clinic. Office personnel and the county ASCS committee took an active part. The goal for fund donations was \$9,000. In just a few months, over \$14,000 had been raised.

Lincoln National Forest personnel, in cooperation with State, district, and private foresters, county commissioners, city officials, and representatives of all utility companies involved, developed a fire simulator exercise for Lincoln County, New Mexico. The exercise was designed to test the county's disaster plan. This "dry run" found strong and weak points of the plan. For example, evacuation procedures were found to be inadequate to save lives in the Ruidoso area in the event of a wildfire.

A New Mexico RC&D area's leaders organized a health fair to provide health checkups to needy people who could not afford them.

Nitrates in water supplies have been identified by the Connecticut State Health Department as a current and potential problem. Extension provided assistance to the State Health Department in problem evaluation, resource information, consultation, and in seeking solution measures.

In North Carolina, the Chatham County RD Panel helped develop a county directory of health services. This activity shows the citizens the health services available to them, and is being used as a model for other counties. In Berkeley County, West Virginia, the RD committee developed a mosquito control program. In Nebraska, the RD committee serving the Mullen area has assisted with the location of a doctor.

The Iowa State University Center for Agricultural and Rural Development has conducted extensive research and released several publications relative to rural health services planning.

Satellite Health Centers is a pilot program instituted by the University of Minnesota Medical School in cooperation with local communities. The program is developing models for better health delivery in rural communities. It also has developed a rural physicians program which provides special opportunities for medical students to live and work in rural communities.

Extension in Rhode Island designed a program to help people cope with the emotional aspects of the divorce process. A bulletin was prepared, six 2-1/2-hour workshops were held in four locations in the State, and radio and television programs were presented to publicize the workshops and provide information.

Research Conducted

The thrifty food plan -- the least costly of the four family food plans developed by the ARS Consumer and Food Economics Institute -- has been adopted for setting coupon allotments and eligibility standards in the Food Stamp Program. The food plans help rural as well as urban families to select the most nutritious diets at the least cost.

ERS research reveals that there is little information on the participation of hired farm workers in the Food Stamp Program. The median family income of hired farm workers is \$7,055, compared with a U.S. median of \$12,105 for all families. While many of these families are eligible for food stamps, there is little information on the characteristics of individuals and their families.

A rural health project in Oregon provided a dramatic illustration of the effectiveness of research and extension efforts under Title V to help a rural county make decisions about its needs for medical facilities. Research and Extension personnel, working closely with local groups, developed data on both financial and health aspects of renovating and expanding a hospital. Through the use of various media, this information was brought to the attention of citizens of Tillamook County. A countywide referendum to buy bonds to finance the hospital improvements passed by a 6.5 to 1 majority -- in a county where unemployment exceeds 25 percent. The beneficiaries include all residents of the county.

Rural community leaders in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, wanted to develop a "one-stop" health service center for their area. They requested assistance from the Title V program. Through the combined efforts of research and Extension staff, essential development data, plans, sketches, and alternative models were prepared. County leaders voted to "take the ball from here," and plans are underway for the "one-stop" facility.

Housing

Improving the quality and increasing the quantity of rural housing in the Nation continue to be major information and technical assistance thrusts of USDA agencies.

The traditionally disproportionate number of substandard dwellings located in rural areas will contribute to rural housing shortages as the population of non-metropolitan areas continues to increase faster than in metropolitan areas. Also, surplus housing units that have been identified in some localized areas are not optimally located.

The price of housing continued on an upward spiral in FY 1976, making it increasingly difficult for low- and moderate-income families to afford adequate shelter. The economic recession and the accompanying major reduction in housing construction caused additional pressure on the rural housing situation. Increasing costs for energy consumption in the home, the special housing needs of the elderly, and changing emphasis of Federal and State housing programs were other factors contributing to the identification of rural housing needs as a major RD problem area requiring information and technical assistance from USDA personnel.

FmHA provides information and technical assistance to allow rural families to obtain the maximum amount of housing possible with the resources available, with or without financial assistance. Assistance is being provided through rural rental housing loans to provide suitable rental units.

FmHA also provides information and technical assistance as a part of loan-making activities on a regular basis to inform eligible families of the programs available and how they are administered. For example, housing plans submitted by borrowers are received to assure that they meet minimum specifications and family needs. Time also is spent in counseling individual applicants about the financial management of their households as a part of the loan and grant process.

Extension continued its extensive housing information and education work with consumers, focusing on home selection, home care and maintenance, and indepth counseling for low-income families. Throughout the country, thousands of families were provided with house plans for low-to-moderate-priced homes. Energy conservation in the home, self-help and nonprofit housing projects, community approaches to meeting elderly housing needs, and cooperation and collaboration with Federal, State, and local housing agencies were emphasized.

Additional work also was done by Extension in conducting local housing needs studies and in the preparation and distribution of housing publications. Relatively new housing program thrusts included the use of paraprofessional housing program aides, housing management training for public housing supervisors, the utilization of volunteers as counselors of low-income families, and the training of local housing code officials.

Assistance Provided

About 285 staff years were devoted to providing housing information and technical assistance in FY 1976. Over 9,200 community projects were significantly assisted by these USDA agency activities. These data represent a decrease of about 16 percent in staff years, but a 17-percent increase in the number of community projects assisted, compared with FY 1975. The number of publications distributed also was up considerably in FY 1976.

Achievement Highlights

The Florida Department of Community Affairs has eight rural housing specialists who work directly with county supervisors. Personnel in these positions have enabled many families who need housing to take advantage of the 502 Rural Housing Program. Florida officials also indicate housing financed through FmHA is not only assisting housing borrowers to obtain decent, sound, and sanitary housing, but also is providing other community benefits, such as more jobs, increasing business activities through the sale of materials, and increasing the tax base of rural areas.

In many States, county Extension personnel conducted intensive information programs to acquaint low-income families with housing assistance programs available, to assist them in loan application procedures, and help them with the various aspects of homeownership. In Florida, special counseling programs utilizing paraprofessional housing aides were used effectively. Extensive assistance was provided by Extension in Somerset County, Maryland, and in several areas of Kentucky, in the development of housing projects for the elderly.

REA responds to requests from its borrowers for information on sources of credit for housing and sources of technical assistance. A survey of community development activities indicated that, during 1975, some 53 REA borrowers assisted with 89 projects concerning housing. The assistance took several forms, such as arranging financing, forming housing authorities, and surveying housing needs.

In Nebraska, county RD committees assisted many communities in the preparation of the required housing element of their comprehensive plans. And in Kansas, the State RD Committee provided housing resource information to local community leaders through a series of five regional housing workshops. In the southeast Kansas region, the Committee successfully utilized local leaders and officials in rural housing projects as primary workshop resource persons.

An extensive program to "train-the-trainers" in care and maintenance of homes was developed by Extension in New York. Extension in Arizona gave special attention to care and maintenance education in several Indian communities. Home care and repair information was translated into Spanish by Extension personnel in New Mexico, where Extension also provided the coordination in reviving a self-help project whose funding had been discontinued. And in Hancock County, Tennessee, Extension gave leadership to organizing a successful nonprofit housing corporation.

Difficulty was encountered in securing funding for a 25-unit elderly housing project in Ohio when, due to its location, neither HUD nor FmHA appeared to have jurisdiction over the application. RDS, working with both Federal agencies, found a solution and funding was obtained.

FmHA, HUD, and VA have been working with Arkansas power companies in developing an "energy-saving" house. The 400 homes built in the past 2 years by HUD, VA, and FmHA feature specially insulated doors, special storm windows, 6-inch rather than 4-inch walls, and extra insulation. The Federal agencies and the power companies are distributing information on these homes in communities throughout the State. Homeowners are realizing a 50-percent saving in the cost of heating and cooling for slightly less than a 1-percent increase in the cost of construction.

An REA-financed electric cooperative in Pennsylvania conducted a countywide survey to determine what rural residents would select in low-cost housing. As a result of the findings, architectural students from Pennsylvania State University have designed an energy-saving, flexible home that is practical for low-income families. Plans are being made for the construction of a demonstration house in the county.

The Kent County, Delaware, RD committee was responsible for informing and assisting agricultural producers regarding the FmHA farm labor housing program. This resulted in two producers building FmHA-financed labor housing for 125 migrant workers.

The State RD Committee Rural Housing Task Force in North Carolina planned and conducted the housing portion of six regional RD workshops. Attended by about 750 local leaders and government officials, the workshops emphasized housing site selection, building codes, home energy conservation, and sources of financing.

Among the many States where Extension responded to needs generated by rising energy prices was Massachusetts, where a major energy conservation program was mounted in conjunction with the State Energy Office and other agencies. In Connecticut, a wide variety of energy conservation activities are underway, including workshops and publications on the "Selection and Safe Installation and Operation of Wood Stoves and Heaters." Texas and Wyoming also report new energy conservation-related education activities.

The potential for mobile homes to provide reasonably priced housing alternatives was the focus of major Extension educational efforts in Delaware, where a publicly owned mobile home park was developed, and in New York, where a mobile home site development manual was prepared. In North Carolina, Extension is conducting a major study of the economics of mobile home living and alternatives for public decisionmakers in regulating mobile homes.

In North Dakota, FmHA met with groups representing cities that were in need of housing facilities. Assistance was provided to help determine the type of Federal program best suited for their particular needs. Special assistance was given to 52 communities in obtaining HUD Section 8 low-income housing for the elderly. Both group meetings and individual discussions were held. Informal agreements also were reached with North Dakota Greenthumb, Inc., and the North Dakota Economic Opportunity Office to provide outreach services for home-repair loans.

In South Dakota, FmHA worked in approximately 70 communities to develop rental apartments. Loans were made to 60 applicants to build 642 rental units. Also, FmHA funded the purchase of 23 homes for Indian families.

In Wall, South Dakota (population about 700), the Black Hills RC&D area organization assisted a group of senior citizens in the development of a 28-unit senior citizen low-income housing complex. This project, in turn, led to new physician services in the community and a noticeable increase in local business activity.

Hoke County, North Carolina, now has a public housing authority because of the leadership of the county RD panel in identifying the need for local, low-income rental housing.

In Oklahoma, FmHA conducted several training meetings with "Greenthumb" personnel to assist in making 504 Direct Housing Repair Loans available to low-income families. Numerous meetings were held by the community leaders and local development groups to assist them in obtaining multifamily rental housing and subdivision sites for family housing.

Information and technical assistance was provided to local officials and organizations by Extension as they considered the public's role and responsibility in meeting local housing needs. In Arkansas, Missouri, and Georgia, assistance to local officials in implementing HUD housing and community development programs was emphasized. Helping local people with a major housing rehabilitation project was a major Extension undertaking in Connecticut, and direct assistance with statewide housing committees was given in Kansas and Michigan. The publications, "Housing Assistance Programs for Kansas Communities" and "Emphasis Report on Rural Housing," a Michigan policy newsletter, were developed. And Extension helped the Northern Maine Regional Planning Commission to develop a system to inventory the housing situation in every municipality in the region.

Training in the management of multiple-unit housing was provided by Extension in West Virginia, and training for local housing code officials was conducted in Virginia and Mississippi.

The Colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts, Industrial Management, Architecture, and Agriculture at Clemson University, South Carolina, cooperate in a Housing Institute which plans and supports development of resource information, education and training materials, research, and a housing education program.

Research Conducted

The Department of Agriculture conducts research studies relating to rural housing and alternatives available for satisfying the housing shortcomings in rural areas. For example, an analysis of 1971 census data by ERS showed that home buyers who obtained conventional loans in rural areas paid higher interest rates and had shorter repayment periods than urban counterparts with conventional loans. Rural people used mortgage funds for 71 percent of the purchases, compared with 87 percent in SMSA's in the 1967-71 period. Fewer mortgages in rural areas were guaranteed or insured by the Federal agencies. Another ERS study culminated in the publication of the information bulletin, "Analyzing the Feasibility of Rural Rental Apartments in the Great Plains: A Guide for Local Decisionmakers," which can be useful to local leaders throughout the country.

An ERS analysis of 1950-70 Census of Housing data reveals that while there have been vast improvements in physical housing conditions, all groups have not benefited equitably. Substandard housing occupied by elderly people increased from 18 to 32 percent of all substandard units in rural America. Single-person households occupied 10 percent of substandard rural housing in 1950, and 30 percent by 1970.

Preliminary results of an ERS study of home mortgage credit in a 14-county area of Kentucky indicate that size of downpayment was the major factor restricting the use of housing credit. Downpayments required commonly ranged from 20 to 50 percent of the purchase price of a home. Credit terms available from savings and loan institutions were more lenient than those from commercial banks. The absence of savings and loan institutions in several of the rural counties accounted for the less-favorable credit terms found in rural than in urban areas.

Counties with declining population have the most rapid improvement in the quality of occupied housing in nonmetro areas, according to an ERS study. While limited improvements are made to existing homes, less-adequate units are abandoned, leading to improvement for the remaining households. Yet, these counties had lower per capita incomes, more one-person and elderly households, more crowding, more renting, older homes, and lower property values than other counties. These conditions are not conducive to making improvements in existing housing.

FS researchers have prepared a handbook which describes how the woodframe house, the most prevalent form of shelter in the United States, can be restored. Renovation of older houses provides a two-fold advantage of lower cost and lesser material than is usually required for comparable new structures. The publication has a guide for inspecting a building and evaluating its condition. If the structure is worthy, a section on rehabilitation offers renovating recommendations and detailed instructions with numerous illustrations.

ARS has completed a study of the magnitude and frequency of solar radiation in relation to its ability to serve rural housing needs. An economically feasible prototype solar heating system was developed for rural homes in the South.

Manpower Development

Manpower development information and technical assistance efforts in USDA are designed both to help overcome low-skill and low-income levels of rural people and to help overcome skilled and semiskilled labor shortages in agriculture and other occupations in rural areas.

The role of USDA agencies in manpower development can be described in several ways--from supportive to catalytic; from informational and educational regarding manpower programs to direct provision of training; from organizational to provision of technical assistance to local communities and other manpower development agencies and groups.

Assistance Provided

The number of staff years devoted to technical assistance for manpower development in FY 1976 by USDA agencies was 251, a decline of 4 percent from the 262 staff years in FY 1975. However, the number of community manpower development projects significantly assisted increased by some 18 percent and the number of publications distributed showed considerable increase. This suggests that a greater number of people were reached with manpower program assistance, even though there was a decrease in staff years expended.

Achievement Highlights

Within FS, manpower development is one of the most important RD program areas in States, such as Oregon, where the forest industry has a major role in the economy. Over the years, the supply of skilled wood and mill workers has declined as young people moved to the cities. Oregon National Forest and State Forester training programs have been developed with local high schools and community colleges in an attempt to reverse this urban migration. The objectives have been to increase student awareness of work available in the forest management and wood products fields and to provide some of the basic skills necessary.

Special programs on these nontraditional career opportunities also have been developed for senior high school women. Besides planning such programs with local school administrators, much time was spent instructing and providing field laboratories for the forestry training.

The wide range of manpower development programs involving Extension have included organizing training and educational programs for displaced agricultural workers, training middle-management in agribusiness and other rural firms to use manpower resources more efficiently, and training and certifying several thousand rural youths as farm equipment operators.

Also included in Extension manpower development activities are conducting or assisting with area manpower, educational, and training needs surveys, youth career awareness and career counseling programs, and the improvement of local employment and job placement services.

The improvement of local employment services has received considerable attention from Extension in Texas, with the development of local employment clearinghouses in counties without an employment service office. In Georgia, eight workshops on "Improving Manpower Services for Rural Residents" were conducted for 150 employment service officials, and a publication on "Changing Directions in the Employment Service" was developed and distributed. In seven Idaho counties, Extension manpower agents provide employment services under Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) funding, in cooperation with the State Department of Employment; a similar program in Adair County, Kentucky, resulted in 300 persons placed in regular jobs plus 129 summer youth placements under CETA. New York Extension continued the "Operation Hitchhike" comprehensive manpower services program in Schoharie County and initiated a new two-county demonstration.

In many States, Extension personnel serve as members of local area manpower advisory boards, and in several States, including Alabama, Colorado, Tennessee, and Virginia, Extension administrators serve as members of the Governor's State Manpower Council. Throughout the country, several hundred persons were directly employed under Title VI of CETA as Extension program aides, complementing and supplementing all areas of Extension educational work while providing valuable work experience to the unemployed. In Alabama, some 25 county RD committees are serving as the local manpower planning committees, thereby providing rural input regarding manpower needs into the planning process.

Following the organization of the Cherokee Hills, Oklahoma, RC&D Council with SCS assistance, a training center proposal was adopted and included in the RC&D plan. After much work by local citizens groups following the adoption of this proposal, a skills center was established in the City of Tahlequah under the administration of the Cherokee Hills RC&D Board.

In several States, Extension worked closely with State and local groups and agencies in planning and developing adequate vocational education programs and facilities. Working with and through county RD committees in Alabama, community leaders explored local vocational needs and alternatives and organized vocational programs to meet the needs. New vocational programs and specific vocational classes were assisted by Arkansas Extension, and, in West Virginia, Extension personnel served on advisory boards of vocational education centers. As a followup to an intensive study of school dropouts in Missouri, a major vocational counseling proposal has been made by Extension and a number of remedial education courses have been developed. In Michigan, Extension prepared materials on "Agricultural Manpower in Michigan" and "Shared Time Vocational Programs" to support State vocational education programs. In Nebraska, the Nemaha County Rural Development Committee has worked with both the Peru State College and local high schools to develop increased vocational training curricula.

The Crook County, Wyoming, RD committee was instrumental in organizing the county's Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) program. YCC provides summer camps where teenagers and college students can work on outdoor projects oriented to natural resources.

In Nevada, Extension was involved in several Indian reservation projects to train residents to produce art and craft items for sale. In Puerto Rico, Extension trained local women to produce macrame embroidery and organized a cooperative to purchase raw materials and market the craft products.

To assist rural business and industry in meeting manpower needs, major manpower surveys and feasibility studies were conducted by Extension in Georgia, Virginia, and Missouri. Also, labor-management workshops for middle management were conducted by Extension in Mississippi, Maryland, and Wisconsin.

The Rutgers University Institute of Management and Labor Relations, New Jersey, holds conferences and workshops and conducts research on problems affecting manpower development programs.

Research Conducted

An ERS study indicates that 85 to 90 percent of the flue-cured tobacco crop will be mechanically harvested. A reduction of 770 seasonal harvest jobs per county annually is expected. The impact is largely on employment for youth and women, who receive 75 percent of total annual earnings from harvest work. While earnings are relatively small per worker, there is a need to provide alternative employment opportunities for harvest workers.

Manpower referral, training, and placement are major problems in many rural areas. In Texas, joint research-extension efforts under Title V assisted the Ochiltree County Chamber of Commerce to establish an "employment service." Analyses were made of the local job market and the skills of people seeking jobs. During the first 6 months of operations, there were 327 applications for employment, with 225 (69 percent) referrals and 117 (36 percent) job placements. Twenty-three placements were in agriculture and 94 in nonagriculture jobs. In addition, 51 applicants secured jobs through their own efforts and 3 applicants were enrolled in manpower training programs.

In Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, the Parish Development Committee and its Job Availability Subcommittee found that many young people, including large numbers of high school dropouts, were not employable, while many area retail stores were seeking trained cashiers and sales persons. Through assistance from Louisiana State University's joint research-extension program under Title V and the excellent cooperation of the local schools, job training was introduced to help meet the area's specific needs. The job readiness aspect of the training made a critical difference in overcoming negative attitudes toward school and work. Young people are now able to qualify for jobs, and employers find the workers they need.

Joint research-extension efforts in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, through the creation of a job center, opened up employment opportunities to young people and helped meet the labor needs of agricultural and nonagricultural employers.

The center was developed under the sponsorship of the Virginia Employment Commission. A summer "Rent a Youth" program helped save the tobacco harvest in 1975. It also met the needs of nonfarm employers. Experiment Station studies of the labor situation in rural Virginia provided a sound basis for developing the program. Some 155 rural young people -- 121 of whom were from minority groups -- found jobs through the "Rent a Youth" program. The county's summer unemployment rate was reduced from 11 to 8 percent.

A study of high school dropouts in Missouri counties has led to new efforts to assist dropouts in "attaining a higher level of usefulness." Results of the survey were presented to groups of dropouts, educators, and school administrators. As a result of informal meetings with dropouts, General Education Development (GED) classes were set up in six communities. These classes were initially organized by USDA staff members, who also prepared an instructional math series used in early classes. All classes have been shifted to area vocational schools. About 154 persons are attending or have completed the classes, and 35-40 persons have received their high school equivalency diplomas.

Environmental Improvement

Energy continues to be a major environmental problem in FY 1976. Many States have had specific programs on energy conservation and its relationship to environmental protection. Besides energy, sediment control and animal waste disposal are still significant problems.

USDA programs in this area emphasize helping people to identify local environmental problems and consider the consequences of alternative means of solving or alleviating them.

Sewage disposal systems for small communities are important. Programs for lake and coastal zone property owners are significant.

Public affairs issues in environment have provided opportunities for mass media efforts. Many news stories, newsletters, and radio programs have been developed on coastal zone management, wet land management, and the affect of mining on the original land resources.

Assistance Provided

The amount of information and technical assistance provided to the public in this activity area remained virtually unchanged in FY 1976 from the preceding year in staff years, community projects, and surveys and studies. There were decreases in meetings and different publications produced, 10 and 4.5 percent, respectively. There were increases in publications distributed and audio-visual productions (up 18 and 12 percent). The energy situation and restricted USDA travel budgets may have contributed to the decrease in face-to-face meetings and the increases in information and assistance typified by the impersonal mass media efforts.

Achievement Highlights

In New Mexico, Extension cooperated with groups attempting to find alternative uses for household wastes in Albuquerque, including the potential for domestic animal feeds. New Mexico Extension workers also helped the Anthony and Mora communities organize water and sanitation districts. In New Hampshire, alternative heating fuels such as wood have become a popular topic. Extension prepared fact sheets to help people analyze the feasibility of using wood as their main heating fuel.

"Let's Clean Up Mississippi--And Keep It Clean" is a theme for State Extension programs. Each county formed an organization designed to meet its cleanup needs that would result in a positive attitude about solid waste disposal. They developed Mississippi's own "Tom Trash" to help Interior's "Johnny Horizon." Over 100 billboards emphasizing the cleanup program were installed around the State.

In Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, an action committee enlisted the aid of the State Department of Public Works, Army Corps of Engineers, SCS, and the Police Jury to work on the problem of drainage. The clearing of two problem areas has started, at a cost of approximately \$260,000.

The energy crisis and spiraling costs of energy led to the development of educational programs aimed at helping the consumer conserve energy and cut costs in Wisconsin. One result, in part, was that last year, Wisconsin residents saved 40 million gallons of heating oil by simply turning down the heat.

As a result of the 1974 Wisconsin Lake Management Law, 63 lake districts have been formed, with Extension assistance. Most districts are undertaking feasibility studies to determine what rehabilitation measures are needed. Four lake districts are ready to implement management programs.

In New Hampshire, the SCS RC&D area coordinator, FmHA housing specialist, environmental specialist, agricultural engineer, county agricultural agent, and forester teamed up to assist with an Energy Conservation Workshop and Fair in Carroll County. Several hundred people attended the various workshop groups and viewed commercial displays. Building construction, insulation, wood stoves and wood as a fuel, solar energy, and other topics were discussed.

In South Carolina, Extension agents assisted in designing a fire ant control program. Ants were attacking cattle, hogs, and wildlife, and threatening vegetable and field crops. Fire ants are now under control in five communities.

A new Extension publication, "Maine Guidelines for the Disposal of Waste Potatoes," encourages local actions to help farmers dispose of their waste potatoes in a nonpolluting, noninfectious manner. A study of waste potato disposal on a land area was organized in one town. Effects on ground water, runoff, and other problems are being studied jointly by the town, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences Extension staff. Other area farming communities are now trying to work out alternative methods to help farmers dispose of waste potatoes for conversion into animal feed ingredients.

In Massachusetts, coastal environment programs have been aimed at science teachers and young people, local government officials, and individuals. The approaches include curriculum development for classroom use and workshops.

The Extension Community Rural Development Task Force had a vital role in planning and implementing the Louisiana Governor's Conference on Environmental Quality. The conference was structured to obtain maximum inputs from not only those community leaders directly working with solid waste litter, but the political leadership at the local and State levels. Local RD committees took the lead in helping to solve this problem in 24 parishes, by means of Extension-sponsored projects. Extension further complemented its efforts through planning and assisting with 247 meetings, conferences, and workshops. Actions evolving from this new interest included the formation of community environmental authorities. A statewide "clean-team" day which involved thousands of youth also supported these efforts.

In Jackson County, Georgia, "Beautification Through Conservation" became a total program and adopted the theme "Man and Nature Blending Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." These conservation efforts resulted in 21 new ponds, 2,000 acres of new pasture developed, 2,200 acres of pasture renovated, 2 miles of terraces built, 3,000 acres of land contoured, 20 new waterways grassed, 50 acres of gullied areas planted, 5 miles of stream channels improved, 50 acres of trees planted, 500 acres of woodland improved, 2,000 feet of drainage ditch constructed, 100 acres of wildlife areas developed, 50 miles of roadside erosion controlled, and 3 oxidation ponds and sewage lagoons constructed. Five water-sheds are under construction; one has been completed.

With committee encouragement, county officials painted the courthouse, removed 200 junk cars from the countryside, built a new livestock center for youth, restored an old train station for the Chamber of Commerce office building, cleaned up and repaired an abandoned army barracks for the office of the civil defense unit, and improved an abandoned lot for courthouse parking. The County Correctional Institute and County Home for Alcoholics planted flowers, shrubs, and gardens, and one county office building was painted.

Delaware Extension has prepared a guide for communities, "Sample Environmental Assessment Process: As Required by HUD Community Development Block Grant Program." An "environmental assessment statement" is required of communities cooperating in the HUD program. A program guide is intended for small communities that may not have staff experienced in environmental review procedures.

In 1973, the Yavapai County, Arizona, Extension agent saw the need to foster change in attitudes of local environmental groups and ranchers about rangeland management of public lands. He devised a plan, which was submitted at a joint meeting of FS and SCS. An environmental field day was started. After 3 years, the field day has been expanded to include a range plant identification workshop. The field days are popular, and there has been an increase of 75 to 150 in attendance. As a result of the field days, the attitude of the public and ranchers toward each other seems to be changing to mutual understanding.

In a small community in Sabine Parish, Louisiana, the new school playground had a serious erosion problem. Gullies made play areas hazardous. The School Board met with sponsors of the Twin Valley RC&D Area and asked for assistance. The RC&D Area sponsors agreed to help. School children now have organized activities on an improved play area. Parents no longer worry about the safety hazard on the play area and are pleased with the elimination of an eyesore.

Responding to Federal and State regulations, the Virginia Division of Forestry and three other organizations have embarked on an educational, voluntary approach to improve the water quality of forest streams. The Division, Extension, Lumber Manufacturers Association, and the Virginia Forestry Association are hosting dinner meetings with loggers and wood producers across the State. Using color slides, examples of good logging practices that reduce erosion and sedimentation are discussed. Of the 14 planned meetings, 5 have been held, with an average attendance of 55 loggers.

A Florida Parent-Teachers Association raised \$2,000 to air-condition their elementary school. But further study showed the cost of the project would be

at least \$15,000 and would add \$300 per month to the school's electric bill. The PTA realized it could not complete the project. During the debate which followed, the idea of using trees for natural air conditioning was presented by a science teacher. Students had gathered information showing that tree shade lowered temperatures 3 to 7 degrees. Using this information, the teacher presented the idea to a Florida State Forester. Together they determined how many trees would help and where they would do the most good. They were able to find people to donate trees. A local development corporation donated planting equipment and services. A local irrigation firm provided watering devices.

Runoff water from residential areas in the small city (population 2,100) of Marble Falls, Texas, flowed across a 15-acre area near the city, causing erosion and sediment damage to a potential recreation area. Citizens brought their problem to leaders of the Eastern Hill County RC&D area. Under the direction of the Hill County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the city, with assistance from SCS, a plan was developed, providing for installing needed erosion control measures. This now serves the recreation needs of residents of Marble Falls and the surrounding area. An estimated 38,000 recreation visitor days have been created by this planned improvement, in addition to enhancement of the environment by management of runoff water.

Filling of a creek channel with sediment and debris in the city of Jamestown (population 1,890), Tennessee, has caused flood damage to property for many years and has limited expansion of business and industry. Citizen concern led to a measure for correcting the problem. With assistance from the Hull-York Lakeland RC&D area leaders, action to solve the problem was taken by the Fentress County SWCD and the city, with assistance from SCS. With improvement work completed, citizens in the Jamestown area are now enjoying greater flood protection and improved living conditions.

Over 1,000 acres in Etowah County, Alabama, have been strip-mined for coal. About 500 acres produced sediment that clogged drainageways, caused excessive costs for road maintenance, damaged farmlands and fish and wildlife habitat, and impacted on the growth potential of a community. Citizens sought help from sponsors of the Coosa Valley RC&D area. The county commissioners, the SWCD, and the RC&D sponsors, assisted by SCS, developed a corrective plan. After 2 years of work, the planned improvements have been made.

Research Conducted

Failures in tree planting efforts in the Central Plains States arise from use of planting stock not well adapted to conditions. FS researchers have tested several seed sources and selected those best adapted to plains conditions for environmental protection. Better selections of jack pine, red pine, Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, scotch pine, and Austrian pine are available for tree distribution programs under direction of State Foresters.

Grass seed producers have been prohibited from burning grass straw residues. ARS researchers have developed a pilot plant to ferment the straw for use as cattle feed.

ARS personnel cooperated closely with the Bureau of Reclamation, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and Merced County to develop methods of

eradicating banana waterlily that had been introduced into California. An initial test treatment of 1 mile of ditch indicated that it would be feasible for State and local governments to use the controls.

Researchers in New Hampshire examined the input and corresponding cost and capacity implications for a small rural town recycling plant. They also examined quantity and composition of waste brought to the plant by a sample of rural households and attitudes and problems of householders with the system. Less than one-fifth of the survey sample was opposed to the system, and less than one-fourth reported problems. More than half of the respondents reporting problems were still in favor of the system.

Expanding surface coal mine development in Montana and Wyoming has created demand for development of drought-tolerant and salt-tolerant perennial plants to protect erodible spoil surfaces. Montana researchers found that a native browse plant (salt bush) is economically useful for reclamation of mined surfaces. Sheep, cattle, antelope, and deer like to eat salt bush. This information is being utilized in establishing production fields to supply the seed needed to reclaim strip-mined lands.

Recreation and Tourism

The demand for recreational activities continued brisk in rural areas in FY 1976. The Nation's Bicentennial Year added emphasis to tourism as an important part of economic development.

The Bicentennial has multiplied the opportunities for USDA to participate in, and give leadership to, a number of community projects, cleanup campaigns, beautification projects, fairs, special exhibits, and shows of many kinds. Some of these have served largely local purposes and needs; some have been beamed at the tourist trade.

Improvement of community recreation and tourism services and facilities throughout the country is a goal of various agencies of the Department. The information and technical service provided by the Department will become increasingly important as competition increases and tourist interests shift from one locale to another.

USDA provides county officials, recreation commissions, local communities, special interest groups, and community leaders with survey statistics, demand analysis, design layouts, and financial advice on recreation services and facilities. In addition, USDA assists in establishing local sponsoring organizations, identifies specific project areas, suggests sites for recreation projects, and participates in preparing individual project plans.

Assistance Provided

The year-to-year changes in quantities of information and technical assistance provided in this program area were slight, except in the publications area. Staff years and surveys and studies increased by 5 and 6 percent, respectively. Community projects, meetings and audio-visual presentations decreased by 3, 12, and 8 percent, respectively. Although 37-percent fewer new publications were prepared, 108-percent more publications were distributed by USDA agencies.

Achievement Highlights

USDA has been active in supporting tourism and recreation activities. One example is in Martin County, Florida, where tourism is important to the economy. The Homemakers Council celebrated the Bicentennial with a "Revival of Old Arts," including quilting, chair caning, and other historic crafts.

CETA funds have provided one good way for small communities to have both programs and new park space and facilities. For example, 15 CETA workers in Benewah County, Idaho, helped improve recreation facilities in a local park. USDA provided the organizational guidance to bring the local government resources of the city of St. Maries and the county and State governments together to complete the park.

Several Utah communities have applied for matching funds for park and recreation facilities or Bicentennial projects. They include a wilderness facility for handicapped children, a fairground and race track complex, and several parks with tennis and softball layouts. Each project has necessitated coordination with local citizen groups and has involved the professional assistance of community development specialists and county USDA personnel.

A much-used roadside park in Morgan County, West Virginia, was about to be closed. Citizens objected. They asked the County Mountaineers for Rural Progress (MRP) to intercede. The MRP helped clear up some misunderstandings between the Department of Highways and the landowners. The lease was renewed and the park stayed open, newly named for the owners.

The Morgan MRP, cooperating with the local Chamber of Commerce and a regional planning and development council, also was successful in getting directional signs to the community of Berkeley Springs restored on a nearby interstate highway. The signs were put up when the highway opened, but were removed later. The concerted action and resulting new signs should contribute to highway safety and more tourism for Berkeley Springs.

USDA personnel have assisted in the 7-year project to develop a recreation park for Ashe County, North Carolina. They have spearheaded this project by speaking at local high schools, completing applications for funds, having luncheon meetings with recreation commission members, writing newspaper articles, appearing on radio programs, and by keeping up the enthusiasm and momentum for the project to become a reality.

The park eventually will cost more than \$500,000. Local fund drives and financial assistance from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) have already netted \$180,000. The park opened in May 1976. It features picnic areas, a playground, shelter, parking, restrooms, a lake, ball fields, and a concession area.

A few years ago, five of the most populated municipalities in the St. John-Aroostook, Maine, RC&D project area had full-time recreation directors. Today, 20 of the area's municipalities have full-time directors and staffs. The RC&D project office has helped these community recreation personnel organize and develop improved recreation offerings. The RC&D staff has further helped organize and conduct workshops for community recreation board members, local elected officials, and town managers, and has stimulated the University of Maine at Presque Isle to offer a new 2-year community recreation personnel training program.

After meeting with 32 community leaders, and county and city officials, the Limestone County, Alabama, RD Committee decided a countywide recreation program was needed. The Committee requested Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) assistance. TVA recreational planners prepared an appraisal and made recommendations for a quality recreation program. The RD committee hopes to implement the recommended recreation program in 1977.

The Ozark Gateway Tourist Council, a six-county regional tourist association in Arkansas assisted by USDA, now has 240 members. During the past year, the council raised \$40,000, completed 34 promotion projects, received 3,500

inquiries from potential vacationers, and secured a full-time executive secretary through CETA.

In FY 1976, 364 owner-managers of food-service establishments participated in a sanitary food handling program conducted by the University of Minnesota. Good sanitation benefits the customer and the owner because reduced food waste and spoilage lowers costs. Increasing the dependability of quality food service contributed to the improvement of a major part of the State's tourism services and facilities.

Michigan reports for FY 1976 (1) a statewide conference on commercial campground management, (2) indepth management workshops for local park and recreation department staffs, and (3) an educational program for ski area operators. These innovative programs have resulted in requests for more USDA assistance of this type in the years ahead.

The Louisa and Lawrence County, Kentucky, Recreation Board has worked since its inception to develop a recreation center. Coal severance tax money was obtained to match a BOR grant and construction began in July 1976. The center will include tennis courts, a ballfield, playground equipment, basketball court, concession and toilet facilities, and parking facilities. USDA had a leading role in obtaining funds, organizing a recreation board, and developing a recreation program.

Virginia county agents have worked with local school boards and other groups to launch summer recreation programs. In one county, the school board provided buses for transportation; in another county, school personnel helped gain access to facilities and provided organizational and instructional assistance.

USDA efforts in Washington contributed to (1) the organization and revitalization of the State's commercial recreation industries professional association, (2) the development of a statewide comprehensive survey of citizens' use of recreation resources, (3) the master planning of recreation resources in three communities, and (4) the furtherance of education programs through workshops and conferences.

In response to a recent mail survey, 84 electric and telephone cooperatives reported assisting with 113 recreational projects. In addition to providing electric and telephone service, these organizations often help with planning, financing, and other activities necessary for a successful project.

An old USDA forestry guard station in one area of Montana, built of logs in the early 1930's, was no longer needed and thus destined for oblivion. Several members of the three Kiwanis Clubs in Butte thought it should be saved. They met and worked out the details and financing to get the cabin moved--a hazardous undertaking. The cabin now stands at the World Museum of Mining in the town of Hell Roaring Gulch. Last summer, over 60,000 people from more than 20 States visited Hell Roaring Gulch and its historic ranger station.

Research Conducted

Northeastern Pennsylvania, with its many forests, fields, streams, lakes, and mountains, is within a half-day's drive for 30 million people. Increasing costs of long-distance travel and the growing urge to get away from daily routine are

expected to cause rapid increases in recreational use and development in this area. Large-scale increases in activity could result in serious damage to the basic resources that recreationists seek to enjoy. Extension initiated research to develop guidelines for the area's recreational development. Consultation with local resource managers and planners revealed that reliable estimates of recreation use were needed. A comprehensive inventory of outdoor recreation activity showed that, in 1975, more than 4 million people spent recreation time in northeastern Pennsylvania's outdoors and nearly 97 million days participating in a variety of recreation activities.

A promising approach to suppressing the population of mosquitoes with a specific nematode has been field-tested by ARS. A commercial product is now available to the public for mosquito control.

Development of outdoor recreation facilities has a significant impact on rural areas. ERS research found that nonmetro counties in the South containing parts of major reservoirs (50 or more square miles) had increased in population by an average of 10 percent, well above that of the nonmetro South as a whole. They did so despite the comparative isolation of many of the dams. Researchers in Louisiana found that the Cotile recreation area, a relatively small development, created 12 jobs and 4 businesses to serve the area. Some \$125,000 in goods and services were purchased by campers, boating and water skiing enthusiasts, fishermen, picnickers, and sightseers.

Wisconsin researchers have identified community variables which affect small community recreation development. Ad hoc committees of citizens interested in recreation are more highly motivated toward action than "official" committees. Continuing evidence of progress, even though small, seems necessary to maintain group interest and action. Outside specialists assisting communities are seen as more helpful when they clarify their own motives, establish and support leadership within the community group, and support involvement of a cross-section of the community. Citizens involved in the community committees developed a broader, more pervasive view of recreation, and were able to identify recreational opportunities in their own locale.

Impacts of a national recreation area on a local economy were estimated by ERS in West Virginia. Spending by visitors to the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Area are expected to add at least \$500,000 per year to personal income in a three-county area by the year 2000. Visitor spending would benefit restaurants, motels, and gas stations, in addition to miscellaneous recreation service businesses. The estimates were based on a projected increase in visitors to about 2-1/2 times the 1972 level. The increase in visitors would depend to a large extent on development of a reservoir by the Corps of Engineers and construction of improved highway systems in the area.

Economic, Business, and Industrial Development

Expanding economic opportunity is necessary to meet and sustain the aspirations of our society. Expansion of the economic base of the community is concerned with all economic sectors: agriculture, natural resources, industry, and services.

The business loan program of FmHA has helped focus attention on the need for an increased emphasis by USDA agencies to provide communities with business information and technical assistance. In addition to FmHA financing and technical assistance provided by other USDA agencies directly to business enterprises, USDA agencies help improve the community facilities and other services necessary to attract industry.

A major RD goal of USDA is to assess needs and help rural communities to expand their economic base. To do this, USDA helps people to make their communities more attractive to industries that may be expanding or establishing branch plants. Assistance provided to existing or new industries and businesses in rural areas includes solving managerial, technical, personnel, fiscal, and other problems that may be hampering growth or expansion of rural industry and business.

Assistance to communities in understanding their needs, evaluating their resources, and learning the process of economic development and developing a course of action is provided. Many State Cooperative Extension Services are offering training courses in business and industrial development for lay leaders.

Assistance Provided

In carrying out these processes, 7,239 business and industrial development projects were assisted in FY 1976. USDA participated in about 9,000 meetings related to business and industrial development and conducted roughly 2,000 surveys or feasibility studies, many leading directly to creation of employment opportunities for rural residents.

To reach the widest audience possible and to convey an understanding of the need for community support of community business and industrial development programs, 23,698 publications were produced and 865,042 copies distributed, and 7,600 different audio-visual presentations were prepared and used.

Staff years, projects, surveys, and audio-visual presentations all increased in FY 1976, compared with the preceding year.

Achievements and Highlights

In FY 1976, ten States conducted economic development workshops, which included a self-study course. The self-study educational material initially prepared by ES has been adapted for local use by the various States. Among States participating in this national effort were Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, North Dakota, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Texas. Course-workshops are proposed or planned in eight more States; six other States indicate significant training efforts in this area. In the 10 States where course-workshops were held, an estimated 750 people have been trained to conduct local development programs. At least two States will repeat the course-workshops in FY 1977. In every case, the training was cosponsored by the State economic development agency, Extension, and other interested development groups.

Agencies represented on the North Carolina State RD Committee worked closely with State agencies, county RD panels, and local development groups in providing information and assistance to private industries. County panels gave assistance which generated over 4,100 jobs, as unemployment in the State was reduced from 8.2 percent in May 1975 to 5.8 percent in May 1976. Assistance was provided by the panels in evaluating the potential or economic feasibility of 214 projects.

In southwest Colorado, an Extension specialist was instrumental in organizing a credit union. It is open to all citizens of two counties and is expanding.

In September 1975, 4-H clubs in McCreary County, Kentucky, completed landscaping around a tent factory which employs 117 people. The project involved 566 local citizens. It not only made the community more attractive for additional industry, but also reduced vandalism by increasing personal pride. This community interest influenced the factory to decide to plan a plant expansion which will add approximately 125 people to the payroll.

An example of the interrelationships of FmHA loan programs is shown in Bertie County, North Carolina. A \$15.25 million business and industry loan guarantee for the construction of a poultry processing plant, feed mill, and hatchery has resulted in increased demand for farm ownership and operating loans.

It is estimated that the total economy of the county and surrounding area will be substantially enhanced by this facility, primarily through the creation of approximately 1,000 new jobs when the operation reaches its capacity. The operation also will provide additional income through approximately 600 more grower contracts to farmers in northeastern South Carolina and southeastern Virginia, with annual guaranteed gross income of approximately \$8,000 per contract per year. FmHA has made a number of farm ownership loans to individual farmers to become established as contract broiler growers.

Adequate market systems can be established for small farm producers. This was demonstrated in Texas, where a green tomato market operation opened in Cherokee County during FY 1976. More than 11,000 boxes of tomatoes were handled at the market, with more than \$55,000 in receipts being added to the county economy.

The California Rural Affairs Council, the California County Supervisors Association, and the League of California Cities cooperated to conduct two statewide workshops with elected officials and county and city administrators. The purpose of the workshops was to acquaint participants with the economic development resources of both the Federal and State governments.

A 1970 survey by the Wilcox County, Alabama, RD Committee indicated a need for a farm supply center and grain elevator in the county seat. After 5 years' work of the Committee, local leaders, and agencies, funds became available from the Alabama Farmers Marketing Authority. Additional funding was secured through a loan of revenue sharing funds from the Governor's office. The facility opened in 1975. Local producers marketed 240,000 bushels of soybeans through the facility in the fall of 1975. A farm supply center also was established by a stock investment of approximately \$130,000 by 140 individuals. The center did approximately \$2 million of business in the first year of operation. The service center saves farmers a trip of about 50 miles to the nearest similar facility to buy feed, seed, and fertilizer.

During 1975, REA electric and telephone borrowers reported providing assistance to commercial and industrial projects which resulted in 18,104 direct jobs and 11,767 indirect jobs.

A joint ARS-University of Arizona investigation will determine suitable industrial uses for Southwest irrigated lands. One project is establishment and operation of a commercial sorghum syrup plant by an Indian tribe. The plant facilities developed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute under the ARS Agri-Business Program Contract will be made available for this purpose. It will be augmented by development of specific western markets for the plant's output, and assisted by the University of Arizona Experiment Station and the ARS Sugar Crops Laboratory in selecting optimum varieties and cultural methods. This operation should produce 15,000 to 40,000 gallons of syrup annually, employ 12 to 15 people, and yield a net profit of \$30,000 to \$80,000 above all costs, supplies, and labor.

The New Jersey Bureau of Forestry has initiated a program in cooperation with USDA to recycle wood, lumber, and logging residue now being wasted. The wood residue will include trees removed in street construction, land-cleaning, and logging; lumber that has outlived its usefulness, such as that in broken pallets and demolished buildings; and material left over during manufacturing. The goal is to yearly recover a wood volume equivalent to 2 million board feet and 20,000 cords. Since January 1975, markets have been found for over \$190,000 worth of wood residues, with additional savings resulting from the elimination of disposal costs.

The Northeast Mississippi Timber Development Organization has about 250 land-owner members. They own over \$120,000 worth of equipment, which is used for site preparation and tree planting on member lands. A sawmill that employs about 50 people has been established in the area since the landowner group started. The organization supplies a significant portion of the wood processed by the new mill.

Greenfield, Iowa (population about 2,000), needed new jobs to keep young people from leaving. With support and assistance from the Southern Iowa RC&D Area leaders, land for a development site was purchased with local funds and loan funds from SBA. Soon a glass fabrication plant was located on the industrial site, providing over 40 new jobs for local people.

An "Inventor's Fair" is sponsored each year by the Hill City, Kansas Chamber of Commerce. The local Extension office assists with planning and publicity for the fair and Extension specialists judge the 25 to 50 entries. Several products displayed at the fairs are now in production in northwest Kansas communities.

Through the Nevada Resource Action Council and the Nevada Division of Forestry, the latter will develop the marketing potential of wood products made from pinyon-juniper trees. Preliminary results show strong potential for economic use.

Piscataquis County Extension agents were instrumental in helping the small central Maine town of Milo replace its largest industry. A mill closed after nearly 100 years of operation. The Extension agent organized a meeting for the general public to discuss alternatives and opportunities for financing new industries. When it developed that a firm wanted to locate in Milo, but was not interested in using the vacated mill, the townspeople voted to sell the firm three abandoned schoolhouses near the center of town. As a result, the town has a new industry employing 50 people, with plans to employ another 50.

The Auburn University Engineering Experiment Station is assisting several industries in Alabama by finding feasible solutions to their pollution problems. It also has prepared necessary feasibility studies for SBA loan applications.

The Mississippi State University Colleges of Engineering and Business assist industrial firms with problems relating to management, expansions, pollution, marketing, transportation, and community relations.

ARS agribusiness development of fabricated lamb steak, made from nonprimal cuts, has progressed to the point of a successful evaluation by the Armed Forces. Procurement specifications are being developed, and the military plans to buy the new product and to conduct placement tests soon. Meat processors are expected to market fabricated lamb steak.

ARS has developed improved potato and tomato processing methods. A new plant in Othello, Washington, is now using a new potato-peeling process. A pilot-scale production of edible tomato pulp made from peelings, which were formerly wasted, is being demonstrated at a plant in Antioch, California.

Research Conducted

The trend toward rural industrialization that emerged in the 1960's has gained momentum, according to a recent ERS study. From 1969 through 1972, nonmetro counties experienced a 9.8-percent increase in manufacturing employment, while metro counties reported a 1.6-percent increase. Moreover, nonmetro counties increased their overall share of U.S. manufacturing employment by 1.4 percent

during the same period. Analysis of industry composition reveals that the growth in nonmetro industry was dominated by firms that are more likely to offer stable employment, and are keenly aware of the comparative advantages offered by nonmetro county locations.

A related ERS study revealed that total employment expanded more rapidly in nonurban than urban areas in the Atlantic coastal region and in each of its subregions--New England, Middle Atlantic, and South Atlantic. Manufacturing employment, in total, declined in New England and Middle Atlantic subregions but expanded rapidly in the South Atlantic. In nonurban areas, however, manufacturing employment expanded in all three subregions.

Several thousand small slaughter houses and locker plants throughout the Nation kill a small number of animals on a weekly basis. The hides from these animals may not reach a central curing facility for several days. Without preservation, these hides can lose more than half their market value. Research conducted by ARS has found a process which will preserve the hides without loss in quality for 8 days. Test results also show that hide shrinkage is reduced and the strength of the finished leather is substantially higher.

North Dakota, through its Title V program, is conducting feasibility studies to help community and business leaders identify opportunities for expanded economic activities. At meetings with county Extension agents and representatives of cooperating regional and State groups, research and educational needs of various communities and groups within the region have been discussed. Studies have been completed for an alfalfa pelleting plant, a flax fiber processing plant, and a portable seed-cleaning unit. Additional projects will examine the economics of rural water systems, the feasibility of a large-scale hog slaughtering plant, vocational education centers, and the investment and operating requirements of small meat plants in rural communities.

County leaders in Mississippi's Title V pilot area defined new industry as an answer to their need for jobs and for a stronger local economy. Data on the pilot area and alternatives for development were prepared by Mississippi State University staff members. Utilizing the alternatives, a decision was made to establish an industrial park to attract industry. A successful bond issue campaign for \$400,000 was launched under the slogan "A Five Cent Check for Progress," for a tax increase of 5 cents per family per day to establish the park. Firms planning to locate in the park will add some 100 new jobs and \$700,000 additional income.

Researchers in New Mexico, in cooperation with local public officials and other local leaders, are determining the factors which make a community "viable" -- one which can attract economic growth. Some 100 factors have been identified. Major emphasis is placed on those factors which can be influenced by local decisions.

The information from surveys of business leaders and trade area surveys of consumers in Wisconsin helps community and business leaders understand the issues in downtown development and the alternatives they have in attempting to achieve it.

A concentrated effort in the Uintah Basin of western Utah is designed to assist local residents, government decisionmakers and energy development groups to understand likely impacts of energy resource development upon the area, and to plan appropriate action to accommodate impending changes.

In Virginia, a comprehensive economic base analysis of a substate region has been completed. Results were reported in eight publications which provided: (1) an inventory and assessment of the region's resources, (2) an assessment of the region's development potentials by economic sector, and (3) an assessment of the economic impacts of alternative changes in the region's economic activities. Through a cooperative effort between Title V personnel and the region's planning commission, these reports are being used by the region's leaders, citizens, and public officials to evaluate alternatives in economic development.

Rural Cooperatives

Several USDA agencies provide information and technical assistance for rural cooperatives, including CSRS, ES, FCS, and FmHA. RD committees also encourage cooperative development and expansion.

USDA is concerned with the complete cooperative entity. This means a concern with the problems of management, member loyalty, policy procedures, markets, supplies, services, and finances for both organized and emerging cooperative groups.

Assistance Provided

Information and technical assistance to rural cooperatives was expanded in terms of staff years, projects assisted, and surveys and studies in FY 1976. There was a small decrease in number of meetings held. Although both publications prepared and distributed declined about 25 percent, audio-visual productions increased by 68 percent from FY 1975.

Achievement Highlights

In Louisiana, FmHA provided information and technical assistance in organizing a feed cooperative. Utah's FmHA technical assistance helped two cooperatives in obtaining loans from other sources.

FCS has provided technical assistance to emerging and ongoing cooperatives. FCS assisted in the formation of Louisiana Fresh Water Fisheries, Inc. FCS also is working with sheepmen to help organize cooperatives to conduct "tele-auctions." It is estimated that the benefits from a Virginia-West Virginia tele-auction are about \$500,000 per year and an Oregon-Idaho tele-auction about \$115,000 per year.

FCS was instrumental in designing and setting up the Graduate Institute of Cooperative Leadership. The Institute has drawn participants from 10 States and the District of Columbia.

This agency also participated in a feasibility study of a proposed merger of two western livestock marketing cooperatives, has instituted a study of cattle marketing alternatives in 11 western States, and is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in widening the scope of the Indian Jojoba project of the Sonoran Desert country.

Extension agents in several counties in West Virginia are actively supporting farmers in their "wool pool" efforts. This marketing process has increased returns by producers by eliminating the "middle man."

In Nevada, Extension worked with a cooperative to produce and market silver and turquoise jewelry, helped a group to organize a utility cooperative, and

assisted ranchers interested in forming a farm machinery and marketing cooperative.

In Kansas, Extension economists have conducted a marketing school for cooperative elevator managers and a training school for farm managers and rural appraisers.

In Nevada, a cooperative was organized to work with a telephone company to construct a cost-share telephone line. The RD Committee had a significant role in determining the feasibility of the project. Total estimated benefits of the project are approximately \$24,000 a year.

The Title V extension-research project in California is directed at assisting rural agricultural production cooperatives, which are not the normal marketing cooperatives. They are made up of individuals attempting to get into the agricultural production business by working together, and usually are sponsored by a community development corporation. Fifty-two such cooperatives were identified and assisted by Extension, benefitting several hundred families, mainly from the Chicano community.

The Wisconsin Extension Center for Rural Cooperatives serves regional, national, and international clientele. Major activities have been training conferences and workshops. Twenty-one training programs and conferences, primarily for State rural cooperatives, have been conducted. Twelve were held for the first time; 812 persons participated in total. Four regional and national workshops were conducted, with 208 participating from as many as 22 States. The Center also offered international training programs and technical assistance, independent study courses, and credit courses.

Under Title V, California has initiated a program to assist low-income farmer-owned production and marketing cooperatives and their sponsoring agencies. Thirty-nine cooperative groups, comprised largely of Spanish speaking and Indian farm producers, are receiving research and educational assistance in production technology, marketing, business management, and community organization. A major effort is made to make the information specific to the needs of the cooperatives and their members. The strength of the program rests upon successful integration of efforts of the University of California, sponsoring agencies, and the cooperatives themselves. Project personnel responsible for both research and extension functions work closely with local community colleges, the State manpower planning office, and the California Rural Affairs Council.

Research Conducted

FCS research has been developing alternatives for livestock producers to market livestock through cooperatives to form a more efficient system. Work is underway with 22 northeastern and southeastern groups to select an appropriate method and implement it. Possibilities range from a centralized exchange to merchandise quality livestock, to an integrated cooperative with packing plant facilities.

FCS, in cooperation with Tennessee researchers, found that 6,200 craftsmen produce articles that can be marketed advantageously through a cooperative. It is expected that a marketing system can be developed to provide better outlets for these rural workers and increase their income.

APPENDIX A

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Washington, D.C. 20250

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ARS	T.W. Edminster, Administrator
ASCS	Kenneth Frick, Administrator
CSRS	T.S. Ronningen, Acting Administrator
ERS	Quentin West, Administrator
ES	Edwin Kirby, Administrator George Hull, Associate Administrator
FCS	Randall Torgerson, Administrator
FmHA	Frank Elliott, Administrator Frank Naylor, Associate Administrator
FNS	Edward Hekman, Administrator Royal Shipp, Deputy Administrator
FS	John McGuire, Chief Rexford Resler, Associate Chief
RDS	Walter Guntharp, Administrator Gary Madson, Deputy Administrator
REA	David Hamil, Administrator David Askegaard, Deputy Administrator
SCS	Mel Davis, Administrator Norman Berg, Associate Administrator
Secretary	Jerry Klement, RDS

(*As of July 1, 1976)

APPENDIX C

Statewide Non-USDA Rural Development Groups

ALABAMA Resource Development Committee; L.G. Rambo, State Executive Director, ASCS, Chairman; 70 members.

COLORADO State Office of Rural Development; Kenneth Baskette, Executive Director, 1550 Lincoln, Room 101, Denver, Colorado 80203.

FLORIDA Rural Areas Development Council, J.N. Busby, Extension Service, Chairman; 48 members.

IOWA Rural Policy Council; Governor Robert Ray; Chairman; 15 members.

KENTUCKY Development Committee; Fred Spraggs, Kentucky Utilities, Chairman; 55 members.

MICHIGAN Council on Rural Development; B. Dale Ball, State Department of Agriculture, Chairman; 20 members.

MINNESOTA--Governor's Rural Development Council; Jon Wefald, Commissioner of Agriculture, Chairman; 27 members.

MONTANA State Rural Areas Development Committee; Torlief Aasheim, 517 W. Koch, Bozeman 59715, Chairman; 150 members.

NEVADA Resource Action Council; John Lavin; Forest Service, Chairman; 69 members.

NEW JERSEY Rural Advisory Council; Mark Ewing, 800 Bayview Avenue, Absecon, New Jersey 08201, Chairman; 12 members.

OHIO State Resource Development Committee; Riley Dougan, Extension Service, Chairman; 45 members.

PENNSYLVANIA--Governor's Council on Rural Affairs; Raymond Kerstetter, Pennsylvania State Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg; 10 members.

SOUTH CAROLINA Community Development Commission; J. Verne Smith, South Carolina Senate, 308 Edgar Brown Bldg., 1205 Pendleton St., Columbia 29201, Chairman; 23 members.

VERMONT Advisory Committee on Vermont Community Affairs; 60 members.

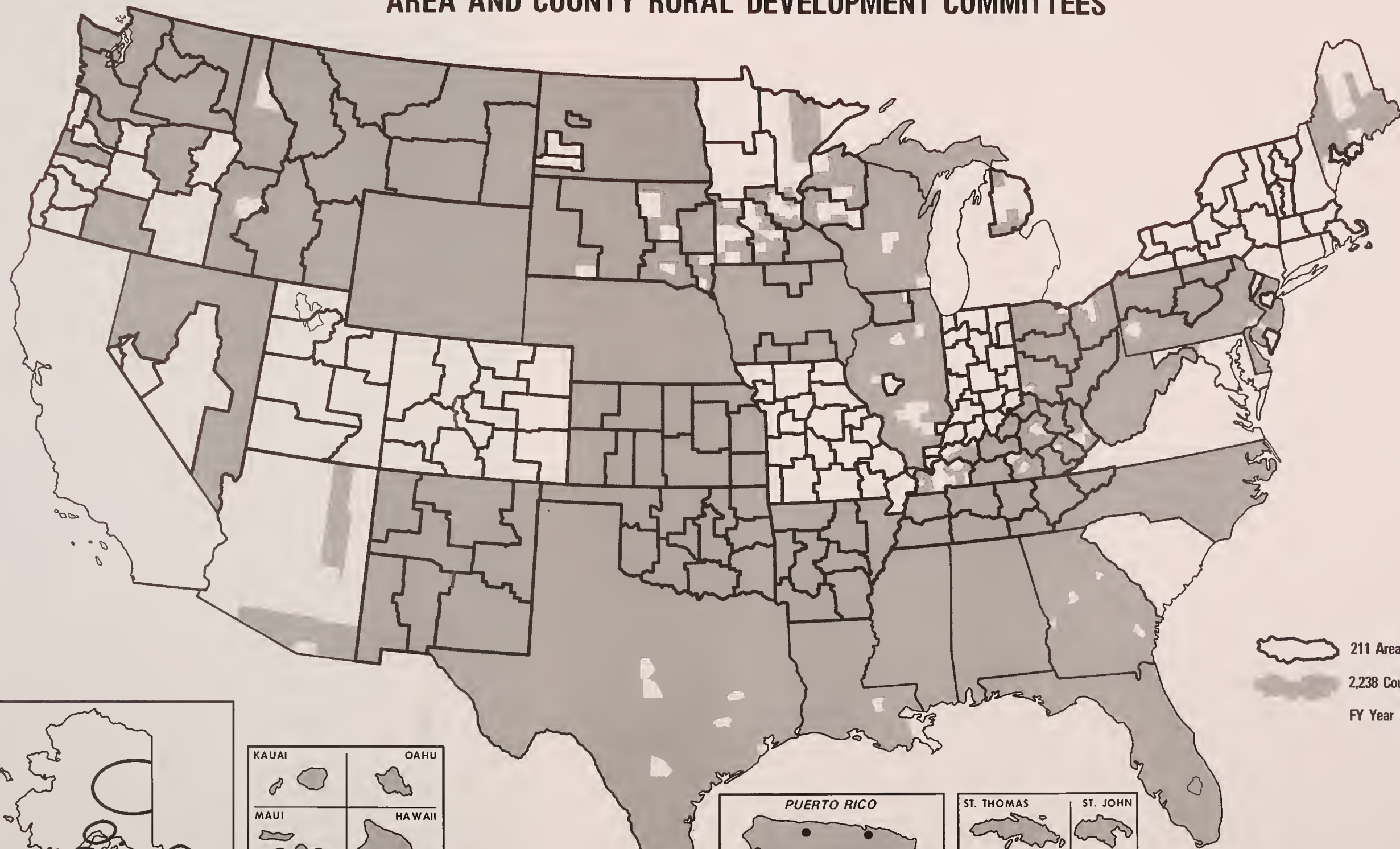
VIRGINIA Resources Council; G. Graham Copeland, Jr., State Department of Agriculture and Commerce, Chairman; 38 members.

State References

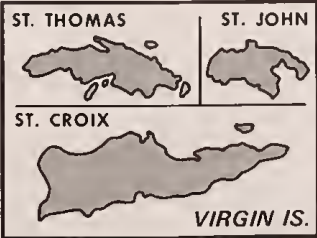
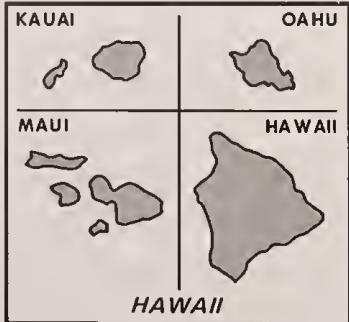
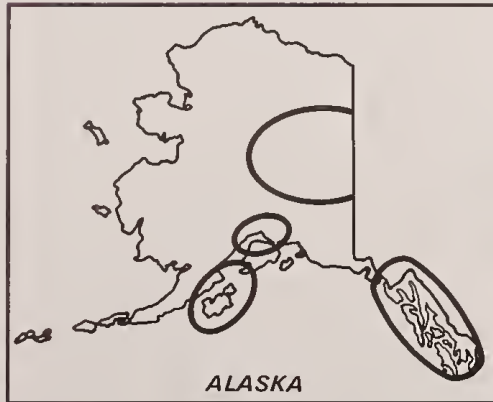
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AREA AND COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES



211 Area Committees
2,238 County Committees
FY Year 1976



APPENDIX E

Abbreviations

ARS	- Agricultural Research Service, USDA
APHIS	- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA
BLM	- Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
BOR	- Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Department of the Interior
CETA	- Comprehensive Employment and Training Act
COG	- Council of Governments
CRD	- Community Resource Development
CSRS	- Cooperative State Research Service, USDA
EDA	- Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency
ERS	- Economic Research Service, USDA
ES	- Extension Service, USDA
FAPRS	- Federal Assistance Programs Retrieval System
FCS	- Farmer Cooperative Service, USDA
FmHA	- Farmers Home Administration, USDA
FS	- Forest Service, USDA
FY	- Fiscal Year
HEW	- U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare
HUD	- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
RC&D	- Resource Conservation and Development
RD	- Rural Development
RDS	- Rural Development Service, USDA
REA	- Rural Electrification Administration, USDA
SBA	- Small Business Administration
SCS	- Soil Conservation Service, USDA
SES	- State Experiment Station
SMSA	- Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area
Title V	- Title V of the Rural Development Act of 1972
USDA	- U.S. Department of Agriculture
VA	- Veterans Administration

